

An iceberg floating in a blue ocean under a blue sky. The tip of the iceberg is above the water, while the much larger base is submerged. The text is overlaid on the image.

NATURALOPY

PRECEPT 15

SUCCESS





NATURALOPY

CELEBRATING HUMANITY

Since time immemorial, our ancestors have gone to great lengths to fabricate myths and fables to answer the six primary existential questions of life:

- Where did we come from?
- What is our purpose in life?
- Why do bad things happen to us?
- Is there a god?
- Are we alone in the Universe?
- What happens to us after we die?

For thousands of years, the East Indians, Sumerians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Egyptians, Romans, Mayans, and other great civilizations of the past have conjured fairy tales of a god or group of gods to justify their existence. We now look at their abandoned gods and think how naive and backward our ancestors must have been.

Today, the Christians, Jews, and Muslims hold steadfast to the idea that an omnipotent figure created the Universe and Earth 6,000 - 10,000 years ago. And that all humans were seeded by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden somewhere in modern day Iran or Iraq. These beliefs persist despite the fact that science has refuted and disclaimed those assertions with empirical evidence—evidence that can be verified by anyone willing to do the research. Most don't, thus the perpetual conflict between the Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

The Universe is roughly 13.8 billion years old; the Earth 4.6 billion years old; Humans are the product of evolution, 4.3 billion years in the making.

There is no need to attribute to the gods what Humanity has achieved.

Naturalopy (naCHərə lō pē)

noun

1. The philosophy of adopting universal knowledge and collective wisdom from historical and contemporary sources to form a belief system.
2. The Naturalopist belief system, founded on the shared knowledge and experiences of Humanity; modern philosophy; natural philosophy.

Naturalopist (naCHərə lō pist)

noun

1. One who believes in universal knowledge and collective wisdom as a basis for her or his moral guidelines and belief system; naturalist; spiritualist.
2. One who embraces the 20 Naturalopic Precepts as a guideline for a worldview; acknowledges the law of cause and effect.
3. One who adopts preeminent ideologies and philosophies regardless of their origin; objective mindset.

Naturalopic (naCHərə lō pik)

adjective

Of or relating to the precepts of Naturalopy; collective knowledge, objectivity, cause and effect, empirical evidence, spirituality, transparency, natural philosophy, Nature; equality before the Law, beneficial to Humanity.

The 20 Precepts of Naturalopy

Precept (pre sept)
noun

A rule, directive, or principle that guides one’s actions, particularly as pertains to moral conduct.

Naturalopy is structured into 20 primary precepts, most of them with supporting precepts.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Freewill | 11. Happiness |
| 2. Karma | 12. Love |
| 3. Simplicity | 13. Dreams |
| 4. Health | 14. Wisdom |
| 5. Spirituality | 15. Success |
| 6. Compassion | 16. Suffering |
| 7. Purpose | 17. Forgiveness |
| 8. Virtue | 18. Salvation |
| 9. Attitude | 19. Liberty |
| 10. Character | 20. Time |

When taken as a whole and expanded in detail, the Naturalopic framework of 20 precepts is more comprehensive in scope than any single religion or philosophy because it embraces all available knowledge.

Life can be complex, therefore our moral guidelines and belief system are only complete, accurate, and objective when they’re derived from multiple historical and contemporary sources, regardless of their origin.

Life did not come with a manual. Life is a learning process. We make mistakes; we are not sinners. The better choices we make, the higher our quality of life. But we can only make better choices when we are enlightened...

NATURALOPY

PRECEPT 15

S U C C E S S



PRECEPT 15

SUCCESS

success

accomplishment, victory, fortune, fame, reward, eminence, progress, fruition

1. The achievement of one's aim or goal.
2. The fact of getting or achieving wealth, respect, or fame.

Ask 10 people the definition of success and expect different answers. Although success is frequently associated with financial wealth, money is only a small part of success. The definition of success is probably best said by Maya Angelou, “Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it.” Therefore, success can be likened to having peace of mind—to live a life of our own choosing.

There are many elements to success and they apply equally to every person, regardless of background, education, or parentage. For example, creativity, diligence, perseverance, and patience are four common elements that each person must possess before they can achieve success.

Success doesn't come to us; we have to come to it, and even chase it. It doesn't stay with us either, we have to hold onto it.

10%

People only see 10% of success

90%

People don't see 90% of the hard work

Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve.

Napoleon Hill



There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

Colin Powell



Naturalopist

Work for a cause, not applause. The secret to success regardless of your passion is no secret. Just work hard and add value to people's lives.

Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.



Winston Churchill



One difference between successful people and all the rest is that successful people take action.

Bob Proctor

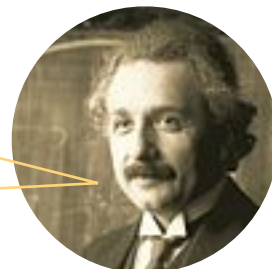
Work hard in silence. Let your success be the noise.

Ritu Ghatourey



Try not to become a person of success but rather try to become a person of value.

Albert Einstein



People admire success but not its methods.

Naturalopist



Successful people DECIDE how they are going to live; they are not victims of circumstances. In good times and bad, they know where they are going and they know that they are going to get there!



Bob Proctor

It's a sad day when you find out that it's not accident or time or fortune, but just yourself that kept things from you.



Lillian Hellman

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.



Thomas Edison



The secret to getting ahead is getting started.

Mark Twain



There is only one success—to be able to spend your life in your own way.

Christopher Morley

Some day people will ask me what is the key to my success and I will simply say, “Good Karma.”



K. Crumley

All government—indeed, every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue and every prudent act—is founded on compromise and barter.



Edmund Burke



Lead, follow, or get out of the way.

Thomas Paine

The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word “crisis.” One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger—but recognize the opportunity.



John F. Kennedy



Choose a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life.

Confucius



To be successful, the first thing to do is fall in love with your work.

Mary Lauro

I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.



Jim Rohn



I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.

Leonardo da Vinci

Do you want to play it safe and be good or take a chance and be great?



Naturalopist

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.



Matthew 7:7



Don't wait for your break. Make your break. Make it happen for yourself.

Charlie Day

What is success? It is being able to go to bed each night with your soul at peace.



Paulo Coelho

I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse.



Florence Nightingale

Success is not to be pursued; it is to be attracted by the person we become.



Jim Rohn



Aristotle

First, have a definite, clear practical ideal; a goal, an objective.

Second, have the necessary means to achieve your ends; wisdom, money, materials, and methods.

Third, adjust all your means to that end.



You can do anything you set your mind to.

Benjamin Franklin



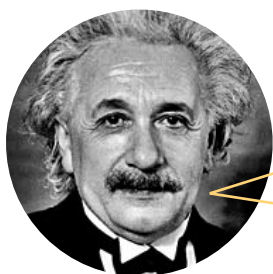
Successful people are willing to do what unsuccessful people aren't.

Naturalopist



The next time you feel slightly uncomfortable with the pressure in your life, remember no pressure, no diamonds. Pressure is a part of success.

Eric Thomas



If A is success in life, then $A = x + y + z$.

x = work,

y = play,

z = keep your mouth shut.

Albert Einstein



It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things.

Leonardo Da Vinci



I got where I am by collecting friends, not enemies.

Jodie Foster, *Inside Man*

A big part of success is just to show up where you're supposed to be and do what you're supposed to do.



Naturalopist

Focus on what you want. You move in the direction of your most dominant thought.



Trung Nguyen

I know the price of success: dedication, hard work and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.



Frank Lloyd Wright



Thomas Edison

The first requisite for success is to develop the ability to focus and apply your mental and physical energies to the problem at hand without growing weary. Because such thinking is often difficult, there seems to be no limit to which some people will go to avoid the effort and labor that is associated with it.

There are people who make things happen, there are people who watch things happen, and there are people who wonder what happened. To be successful, you need to be a person who makes things happen.



Jim Lovell

Three Simple Rules in Life



Rule 1: Go after what you want. If you do not go after what you want, you'll never have it.

Rule 2: Ask for it. If you do not ask, the answer will always be no.

Rule 3: Take risks. If you do not step forward, you will always be in the same place.



If someone tells you, “It’s impossible!”
Say to them, “You’re confused! You just don’t know how to do it.”

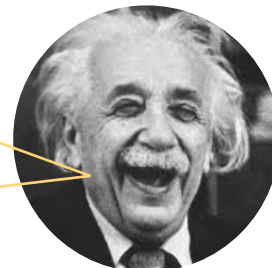
Bruce Bueno de Mesquita

If you don’t take risks, you will always work for someone who does.



Annetta Powell

I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious.



Albert Einstein

An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field.



Niels Bohr

The most successful people are those who serve the greatest number of people.



Napoleon Hill



The first step, before anybody else in the world believes it, you have to believe it.

Will Smith

A business absolutely devoted to service will have only one worry about profits. They will be embarrassingly large.



Henry Ford



Successful people always have two things on their lips: silence and a smile.

Naturalopist



Knowing what you want is the first step toward getting it.

Mae West

Do you live your life for your parents, partner, teachers, friends, society, culture? Or are you living an authentic and alive life that is true to you?



Tania Marie



If your success is not on your own terms, if it looks good to the world but does not feel good in your heart, it is not success at all.

Anna Quindlen



Your only limitations are those you create.

Napoleon Hill

Success is neither magical nor mysterious. Success is the natural consequence of consistently applying the basic fundamentals.



Jim Rohn

To do more for the world does for you—that is success.



Henry Ford



To be successful you have to be selfish, or else you never achieve. And once you get to your highest level, then you have to be unselfish. Stay reachable. Stay in touch. Don't isolate.

Michael Jordan

Being successful doesn't automatically make you happier. But being happier, being more positive, makes you more successful.



Shawn Achor

Energy and persistence conquer all things.

Benjamin Franklin



Everyone has talent. What's rare is the courage to follow it to the dark places where it leads.

Erica Jong

To be successful, you must dedicate yourself 100% to your training, diet, and mental approach.



Arnold Schwarzenegger



Never hate jealous people; they are only jealous because they think you are better than them.

Paulo Coelho

BE A DOER

Theodore Roosevelt

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy course; who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat.

THE STEPS TO SUCCESS

Just keep trying. Try to determine what is working.

Try to determine what is not working. Try to find someone who's done it.

Try and ask for help. Try it again tomorrow.

Try it a little differently. Try once more.

Try again.

Try...

THE DEFINITION OF SUCCESS

Ralph Waldo Emerson

To laugh often and much;

to win the respect of intelligent people and affection of children;

to learn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;

to appreciate beauty;

to find the best in others;

to leave the world a little bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition;

to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.

This is to have succeeded.

FAILURE

failure

lesson, flop, mistake, defeat, lesson, wreck, misstep

1. State or condition of not meeting a desirable or intended objective, opposite of success.
2. An object, person or endeavour in a state of failure.

Success is life telling us what works. Failure is life telling us what doesn't work. So from failure we learn what to do and what not to do, as a stepping stone to success. Therefore, failure is a natural part of the success process.

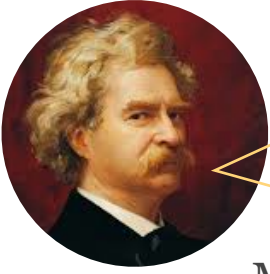
Michael Jordan: missed more than 9,000 shots in his career

Babe Ruth: had 1,330 strikeouts in his career

Thomas Edison: failed about 1,000 (reportedly 10,000) times before inventing the light bulb

Whether failure is permanent or temporary is up to us.

Remember, failure is life telling us what works and what doesn't work. It's telling us to take a different approach, use a another method, devise a new plan, and try again.



Good decisions come from experience. Experience comes from making bad decisions.

Mark Twain

Remember the two benefits of failure. First, if you do fail, you learn what doesn't work; and second, the failure gives you the opportunity to try a new approach.



Roger Von Oech

Achievement seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit.



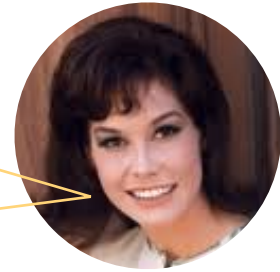
Conrad Hilton



Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

Winston Churchill

Take chances, make mistakes. That's how you grow. Pain nourishes your courage. You have to fail in order to practice being brave.



Mary Tyler Moore

Think like a queen. A queen is not afraid to fail. Failure is another steppingstone to greatness.



Oprah Winfrey



Why do we fall, Master Wayne? So we can learn to pick ourselves up.

Alfred, *Batman*

We all have a few failures under our belt. It's what makes us ready for the successes.



Randy K. Milholland

When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

Dalai Lama XIV



Indecisions and delays are the parents of failure.

George Canning



Life affords no higher pleasure than that of surmounting difficulties, passing from one step of success to another, forming new wishes and seeing them gratified.

Samuel Johnson



So many roads. So many detours. So many choices. So many mistakes.

Sarah Jessica Parker



Failures are temporary situations that teach us necessary lessons. Life's best lessons are usually learned at the worst times and from the worst mistakes. So yes, you will fail sometimes. The faster you accept this, the faster you can get on with being brilliant.



Marc Chernoff



I didn't fail the test. I just found 100 ways to do it wrong.

Benjamin Franklin

You must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself.



Sam Levenson

The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining.



John F. Kennedy

Lesson
Learned

No regrets, just lessons learned. And when it comes down to it, you gotta do what you gotta do.

Naturalopist

Every strike brings me closer to the next home run.



Babe Ruth



Straight roads do not make skillful drivers.

Paulo Coelho



Negative results are just what I want. They're just as valuable to me as positive results. I can never find the thing that does the job best until I find the ones that don't.

Thomas Edison



A failure is a man who has blundered but is not able to cash in on the experience.

Elbert Hubbard



I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.

Thomas Edison

We must be open to our mistakes and grow. Growth isn't based on being perfect, but moving toward the best we can be by being honest.



Tsem Tulku



A stallion must first be broken before it can reach its potential.

Mr. Spock, *Star Trek*

If you call your troubles experiences, and remember that every experience develops some latent force within you, you will grow vigorous and happy, however adverse your circumstances may be.



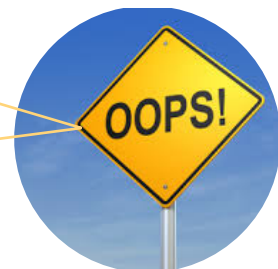
John R. Miller

Difficulties are meant to rouse, not discourage. The human spirit is to grow strong by conflict.



William Ellery

You can never make the same mistake twice because the second time is not a mistake, it's a choice.



Steven Denn

Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose.



Bill Gates

If I had my life to live over I'd dare to make more mistakes next time.



Nadine Stair



The greatest barrier to success is the fear of failure.

Sven Goran Eriksson

When defeat comes, accept it as a signal that your plans are not sound, rebuild those plans, and set sail once more toward your coveted goal.



Napoleon Hill

The only failure is the person who didn't try.



Naturalopist

If you don't make mistakes, you're not working on hard enough problems. And that's a big mistake.



Frank Wilcze

Better be wise by the misfortunes of others than by your own.



Aesop

Success does not consist in never making mistakes but in never making the same one a second time.



George Bernard

Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.



Robert F. Kennedy

Anyone who has never made a mistake
has never tried anything new.



Albert Einstein

There is nothing more dreadful than the habit of doubt.
Doubt separates people. It is a poison that disintegrates
friendships and breaks up pleasant relations. It is a thorn
that irritates and hurts; it is a sword that kills.



Buddha

I have failed many times, and that's why I am a success.



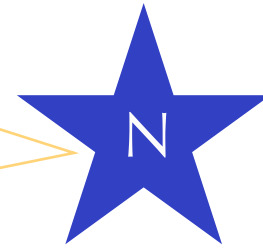
Michael Jordan

You always pass failure on the way to success.



Mickey Rooney

Sometimes you fall down because there is something down there that you are supposed to find and learn from before moving on.



Naturalopist



As I look back on my life, I realize that every time I thought I was being rejected from something good, I was actually being re-directed to something better.

Steve Maraboli

Most great people attained their great success just one step beyond their greatest failure.



Napoleon Hill



Who has never tasted bitter does not know what is sweet.

German Proverb

In order to succeed you must fail, so that you know what not to do next time.



Anthony J. D'Angelo



One of the basic rules of the universe is that nothing is perfect. Perfection simply doesn't exist. Without imperfection, neither you nor I would exist.

Stephen Hawking

If you have made mistakes there is always another chance for you you may have a fresh start any moment you choose, for this thing we call "Failure" is not the falling down but the staying down.



Mary Pickford



But still try, for who knows what is possible...

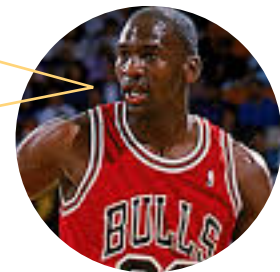
Michael Faraday

The reason most goals are not achieved is that we spend our time doing second things first.



Robert J. McKain

I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying.



Michael Jordan

Life Is Like a Camera



Focus on what's important.
Capture the good times.
Develop from the negatives.
And if things don't work out,
Take another shot.

Naturalopist

There's never a time when you succeed without failing first.



Jessica Simpson

REJECTION AND FAILURE ARE A PART OF THE SUCCESS PROCESS

JK Rowling. Rejected by dozens, including HarperCollins, when a small publisher in London took a chance on *Harry Potter*.

Oprah Winfrey. Fired as an evening news reporter of Baltimore's WJZ-TV because she couldn't separate her emotions from her stories.

George Orwell. A publisher turned down his legendary novel, *Animal Farm*, with the words "It is impossible to sell animal stories in the USA".

Jerry Seinfeld. Didn't find out he was cut from a minor role on a sitcom until he read the script and discovered his part missing.

Elvis Presley. After a performance in Nashville early in his career, he was told by a manager that he was better off driving trucks in Memphis (his previous job).

Steve Jobs. Fired from the company he started, Apple, but was desperately brought back in 1997 to save it. Apple is now the most valuable company in the world.

Stephen King. His first book, *Carrie*, was rejected thirty times. He nearly threw the book out when his wife saved it from the trash and encouraged him to keep trying.

Marilyn Monroe. At the start of her storied modeling and acting career, she was told she should consider becoming a secretary.

Abraham Lincoln. Demoted from Captain to Private during the Civil War, failed as a businessman, and lost several times as a political candidate before becoming President.

10 Painful Rejection Letters To Famous People Proving You Should NEVER Give Up on Your Dreams

Averi Clements

<http://news.distractify.com/people/famous-people-rejection-letters/>

CREATIVITY

creativity

imagination, ingenuity, originality, genius, inventiveness, vision, cleverness

1. The quality or ability to create or invent something.

There is nothing new under the Sun. We string new ideas together from existing ideas. And some of the most original ideas and designs are inspired by Nature.

To be a creative genius requires a good command of language, art, and design. And of course the rhinoceros skin to be mocked at incessantly by those without creativity.

The next time something fantastically “new” is discovered or invented, research to uncover its origin. There is nothing new under the Sun, just variations of Nature and prior art.

Creativity is just connecting things.



Steve Jobs

Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration.



Thomas Edison

Invention is not enough. Nikola Tesla invented the electric power we use, but he struggled to get it out to people. You have to combine both things: invention and innovation focus, plus the company that can commercialize things and get them to people.



Larry Page

The empires of the future are the empires of the mind.



Winston Churchill



I find out what the world needs. Then I go ahead and try to invent it.

Thomas Edison

You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.



Maya Angelou



Innovation never comes from the established institutions. It is always a graduate student or a crazy person or somebody with a great vision.

Eric Schmidt



Nearly every person who develops an idea works at it up to the point where it looks impossible, and then gets discouraged. That's not the place to become discouraged.

Thomas Edison



Curiosity about life and all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people.

Leo Burnett

There is a lot of evidence to suggest that creative genius requires a certain amount of psychopathy: a little erratic behaviour, a little bit of extra boldness in thinking just to go several steps further. And if it's channeled into a high IQ channel, then you get genius.



J. Phillippe Rushton



To do much clear thinking a person must arrange for regular periods of solitude when they can concentrate and indulge the imagination without distraction.

Thomas Edison

The adage “There is nothing new under the Sun” is true. Everything has prior art. Nature invents things and we discover, assemble, and write about and patent them.



Trung Nguyen

As we see it, embracing people's individuality is a matter of basic human dignity and civil rights. It also turns out to be great for the creativity that drives our business. We've found that when people feel valued for who they are, they have the comfort and confidence to do the best work of their lives.



Tim Cook

If you hear a voice within you say, "You cannot paint." Then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced.



Vincent Van Gogh

Uncertainty is the fertile ground of pure creativity and freedom.



Deepak Chopra



A discovery is said to be an accident meeting a prepared mind.

A. von Szent-Gyorgyi

There are no rules here—we're trying to accomplish something.



Thomas Edison

Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible.



Frank Zappa

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.



Pablo Picasso



The more original a discovery, the more obvious it seems afterwards.

Arthur Koestler



You can't wait for inspiration, you have to go after it with a club.

Jack London

Bureaucracy destroys initiative. There is little that bureaucrats hate more than innovation, especially innovation that produces better results than the old routines. Improvements always make those at the top of the heap look inept. Who enjoys appearing inept?



Frank Herbert



The creative adult is the child who has survived.

Ursula K. Le Guin



Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine, and at last, you create what you will.

George Bernard Shaw



Creativity is more than just being different. Anybody can plan weird; that's easy. What's hard is to be as simple as Bach. Making the simple, awesomely simple, that's creativity.

Charles Mingus

Originality is nothing but judicious imitation.



Voltaire

The truth of a thing is in the feel of it, not the think of it.



Stanley Kubrick

Is it so bad, then, to be misunderstood? Pythagoras was misunderstood, and Socrates, and Copernicus, and Galileo, and Newton, and every pure and wise spirit that ever took flesh. To be great is to be misunderstood.

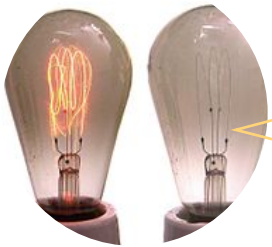


Ralph Waldo Emerson



If I have seen farther than most, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.

Isaac Newton



A new idea is delicate. It can be killed by a sneer or a yawn; it can be stabbed to death by a quip and worried to death by a frown on the right man's brow.

Charles Bower



To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk.

Thomas Edison

Test.
Iterate.
Change.
Evolve.

Your first idea is just a starting point.



Naturalopist

The way to get good ideas is to get lots of ideas and throw the bad ones away.

Linus Pauling



Creativity comes from a conflict of ideas.

Donatella Versace



Minds are like parachutes—they only function when open.



Thomas Dewar

Innovation is the specific instrument of entrepreneurship—the act that endows resources with a new capacity to create wealth.



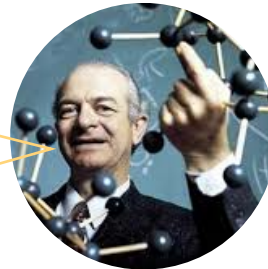
Peter F. Drucker

I know you have a thousand ideas for all the cool features iTunes could have. So do we. But we don't want a thousand features. That would be ugly. Innovation is not about saying yes to everything. It's about saying NO to all but the most crucial features.



Steve Jobs

Satisfaction of one's curiosity is one of the greatest sources of happiness in life.



Linus Pauling



Creativity is knowing how to hide your sources.

Albert Einstein



The chief enemy of creativity is good sense.

Pablo Picasso

Around here we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious, and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.



Walt Disney Company

I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is another step forward.



Thomas Edison

When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece.



John Ruskin

There are people who live in a dream world, and there are people who face reality; and then there are those who turn one into the other.



Douglas Everett

Our wretched species is so made that those who walk on the well-trodden path always throw stones at those who are showing a new road.

Voltaire



A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others.

Ayn Rand



We're quite disruptive, and in the course of that disruption we tend to create enemies, which are hopefully not intended on our part.



Eric Schmidt

Throughout history, people with new ideas—who think differently and try to change things—have always been called troublemakers.



Richelle Mead



Dreamers are mocked as impractical. The truth is they are the most practical, as their innovations lead to progress and a better way of life for all of us.

Robin S. Sharma

Imagination is not only the uniquely human capacity to envision that which is not, and, therefore, the foundation of all invention and innovation. In its arguably most transformative and revelatory capacity, it is the power that enables us to empathize with humans whose experiences we have never shared.



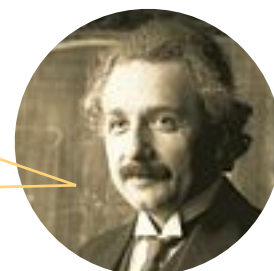
J.K. Rowling



Geniuses are like thunderstorms. They go against the wind, terrify people, cleanse the air.

Kierkegaard

I never made one of my discoveries through the process of rational thinking.



Albert Einstein

To develop a complete mind:
Study the science of art
Study the art of science
Learn how to see
Realize that everything connects to everything else



Leonardo da Vinci



You have to look at the way conventional wisdom works and abandon it.

Don Valentine

Great things don't come out of the status quo. They come out of the people with vision and drive to prove the difference.



Jimmy Treybig

Leo Burnett

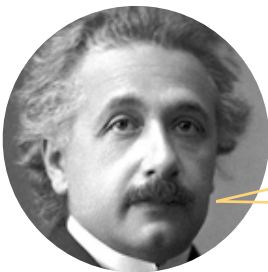


Curiosity about life in all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people.

I invented nothing new. I simply assembled the discoveries of other men behind whom were centuries of work. Progress happens when all the factors that make for it are ready and then it is inevitable.



Henry Ford



Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.

Albert Einstein



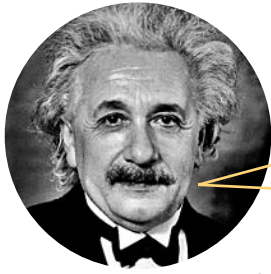
Take young researchers, put them together in virtual seclusion, give them an unprecedented degree of freedom and turn up the pressure by fostering competitiveness.

James D. Watson

I do not think you can name many great inventions that have been made by married men.



Nikola Tesla



Creativity is intelligence having fun.

Albert Einstein

Instinct is something that transcends knowledge.



Nikola Tesla

Reading comprehension, writing, photography, videography, and some computer programming knowledge are essential skills for creativity in the digital age, for they allow us to absorb and express ideas in different mediums.



Trung Nguyen



Creativity and innovation are things you cannot flowchart out.

Tim Cook



There's a better way to do it—find it.

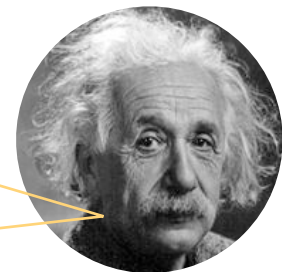
Thomas Edison



Constantly think about how you would be doing things better and questioning yourself.

Elon Musk

The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honours the servant and has forgotten the gift.



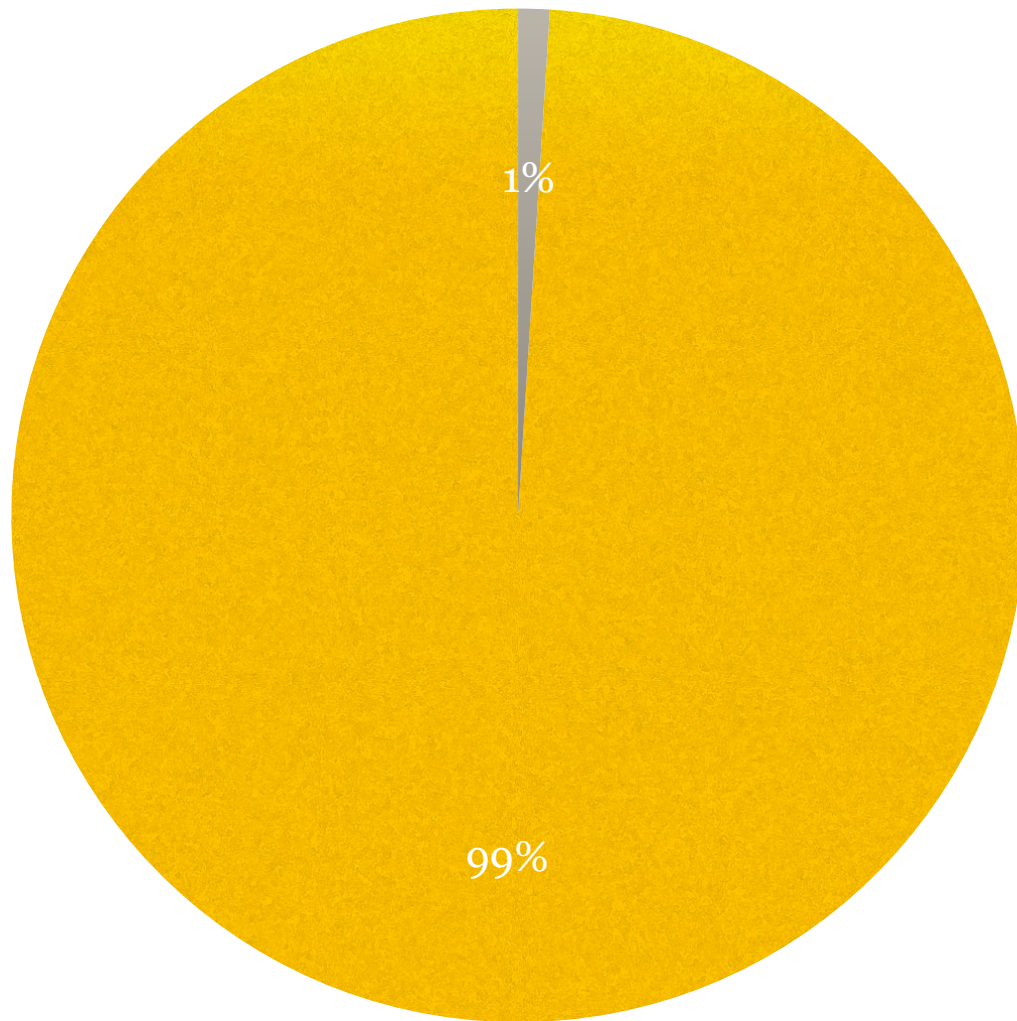
Albert Einstein

The five essential entrepreneurial skills for success are concentration, discrimination, organization, innovation, and communication.



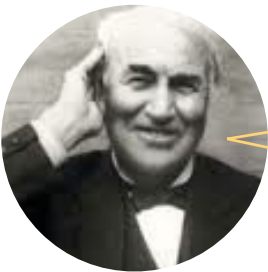
Michael Faraday

The Creative Process



● Inspiration

● Perspiration



Thomas Edison

Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration.

RISK

risk

venture, exposure, opportunity, uncertainty

1. A possible, usually negative, outcome, e.g., a danger.
2. The potential (conventionally negative) effect of an event, determined by combining the likelihood of the event occurring with the effect should it occur.

If we don't take risks, we will never succeed. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, as the adage implies.

Obviously, there are unplanned, foolish risks; and planned, calculated risks. We want to take the calculated risks.

If we want to succeed, take risks. If we fail, learn from those risks. Learn what doesn't work, what works, and move on to the next calculated risk. Every risk we take moves us closer to our dream.

We never know until we do. And to do is to risk, but we must take the risk to know...

A ship in port is safe, but that's not what ships are built for.



Rear Admiral Grace Hopper



Steve Jobs

We're moving forward and mistakes are being made. That's okay because at least decisions are being made.



Gordon Parks

The guy who takes a chance, who walks the line between the known and unknown, who is unafraid of failure, will succeed.

Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out.



James Bryant Conant



Do something everyday outside of your comfort zone, because that's where the magic happens.



Life: No risk, no gain.

Naturalopist



You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try.

Beverly Sills

Most men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them.



Henry David Thoreau



Even if you fall on your face,
you're still moving forward.

Victor Kiam

You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.



Wayne Gretzky

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games; 26 times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.



Michael Jordan

The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek.



Joseph Campbell



Everything you want is outside your comfort zone.

Robert Allen



You can't fall if you don't climb. But there's no joy in living your whole life on the ground.

Naturalist



If someone offers you an amazing opportunity and you're not sure you can do it, say yes. Then learn how to do it later.

Richard Branson



Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

Thomas Edison

For a seed to achieve its greatest expression, it must come completely undone. The shell cracks, its insides come out and everything changes. To someone who doesn't understand growth, it would look like a complete destruction.



Cynthia Ocelli

Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.



Will Rogers

Your biggest problem is you're trying to please everyone all the time. You're trying not to say anything that anyone objects to. You don't make change in the world; you don't have impact in the world unless you're willing to say things that not everyone will like.



Mark Zuckerberg

A man would do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one could find fault.



John Henry Newman

Too many men are afraid of being fools.



Henry Ford



Don't wait. The time will never be just right.

Napoleon Hill

And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.



Anais Nin



Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Leap and the net will appear.

Zen Philosophy



I always did something I was a little not ready to do. I think that's how you grow. When there's that moment of "Wow, I'm not really sure I can do this," and you push through those moments, that's when you have a breakthrough.

Marissa Mayer



Pearls aren't found on the seashore. If you want some, you must dive for them.

Chinese Proverb



When entrepreneurs see problems we also see opportunities. It's like we have dual vision, we see both the problem and a solution. The more you develop your dual vision, the more successful you'll be in your business.

Sue Painter



TAKE RISKS

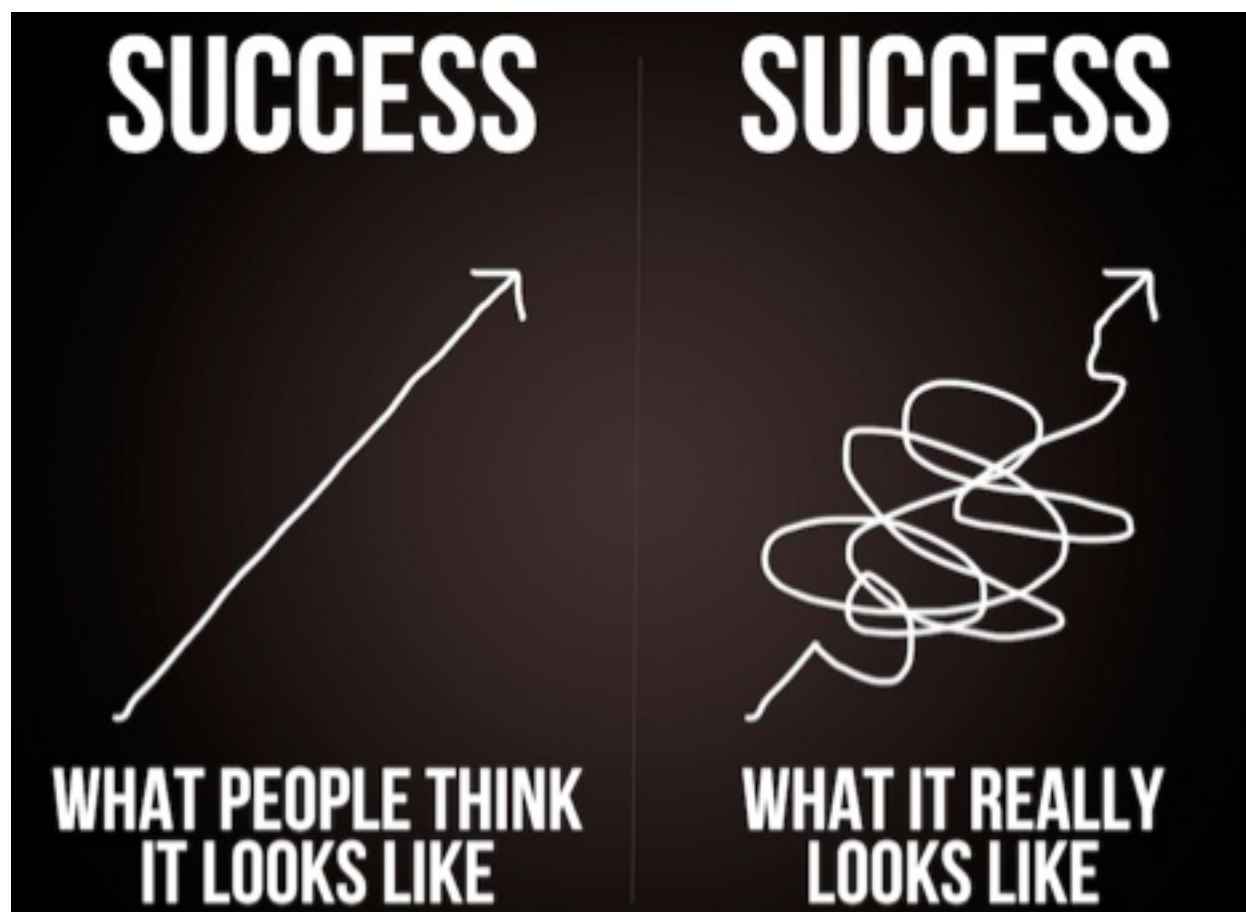
Play the game of life like the game of chess: plan several moves ahead.

Success is like a bow and arrow. We need to pull back in order to launch forward—failure teaches us the lessons we need to spring forward.

When there's a disconnect between what you know and what you do, you lack courage.

If you don't take risks, there is a 100% chance you will fail.

Remember life's truism: No risk, no gain.



SACRIFICE

sacrifice

endure, suffer, spare

1. To give away (something valuable) to get at least a possibility to gain some thing else of value (such as self-respect, trust, love, freedom, prosperity), or to avoid an even greater loss.
2. Destruction or surrender of anything for the sake of something else; devotion of some desirable object in behalf of a higher object, or to a claim deemed more pressing.

Time away from friends, family, and hobbies are some of the sacrifices required to pursue success. In the end, if people are supportive of our dreams they'll understand why we need to do what we do.

What are we willing to give up in order to achieve the things we want most?

You have to develop rhino skin on your journey to success. Lots of people will try to bring you down, discourage you, make fun of you, try to steer you off the path of your goals and dreams. Don't let them.

Associate yourself with winners. Hang out with like-minded individuals who are going to help you grow.



Alex Morton

Life engenders life.
Energy creates energy.
It is by spending oneself that one becomes rich.



Sarah Bernhardt

The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.



Henry W. Longfellow

Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits.



Thomas Edison

Do what you can,
with what you have,
where you are.



Theodore Roosevelt



Good things happen to those who hustle.

Anais Nin



Some people dream of success while others wake up and work hard at it.

Naturalopist

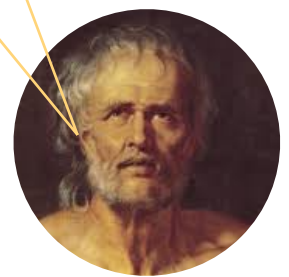
The Seven Deadly Sins

1. Wealth without work.
2. Pleasure without conscience.
3. Science without humanity.
4. Knowledge without character.
5. Politics without principle.
6. Commerce without morality.
7. Worship without sacrifice.



Mahatma Gandhi

Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.

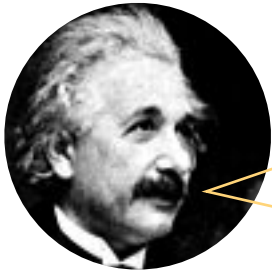


Seneca

Toil and risk are a part of glory, but it is a lovely thing to live with courage and die, leaving an ever lasting fame.



Alexander the Great



I'm thankful for all those who said "no" to me. It's because of them I'm doing it myself.

Albert Einstein

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.



Thomas Edison



To set out on any noble purpose and to die along the way is to succeed.

Hindu Proverb

Do not pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one.



Bruce Lee

The best people possess a feeling for beauty, the courage to take risks, the discipline to tell the truth, the capacity for sacrifice. Ironically, their virtues make them vulnerable; they are often wounded, sometimes destroyed.



Ernest Hemingway



Sacrifice, which is the passion of great souls, has never been the law of societies.

Henri Frederic Amiel



In everyday things the law of sacrifice takes the form of positive duty.

James Froude



Mahatma Gandhi

The sacrifice which causes sorrow to the doer of the sacrifice is no sacrifice. Real sacrifice lightens the mind of the doer and gives him a sense of peace and joy. The Buddha gave up the pleasures of life because they had become painful to him.

There are plenty of teams in every sport that have great players and never win titles. Most of the time, those players aren't willing to sacrifice for the greater good of the team. The funny thing is, in the end, their unwillingness to sacrifice only makes individual goals more difficult to achieve. One thing I believe to the fullest is that if you think and achieve as a team, the individual accolades will take care of themselves. Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.



Michael Jordan



Eric Thomas

If you think it's gonna be easy, just forget about it. Don't even try to be successful.

James Allen

He who would accomplish little must sacrifice little;
he who would achieve much must sacrifice much;
he who would attain highly must sacrifice greatly.



Amateurs look for inspiration;
the rest of us just get up and go to work.



Chuck Close

Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, and difficulty. I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life. I have envied a great many people who led difficult lives and led them well.



Theodore Roosevelt



Great achievement is usually born of great sacrifice,
and is never the result of selfishness.

Napoleon Hill

There are always excuses: the weather's too hot, the weather's too cold; the weather's perfect so I need to enjoy it. Then there are distractions: the news, TV shows, movies, social media, and trivial matters. Technology has enabled us to be busy without getting anything important done. We need to eliminate distractions and trivial activities in order to work on important goals.



Trung Nguyen

Without ambition one starts nothing. Without work one finishes nothing. The prize will not be sent to you. You have to win it.



Ralph Waldo Emerson

To gain that which is worth having, it may be necessary to lose everything else.



Bernadette Devlin

No man needs sympathy because he has to work, because he has a burden to carry. Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.



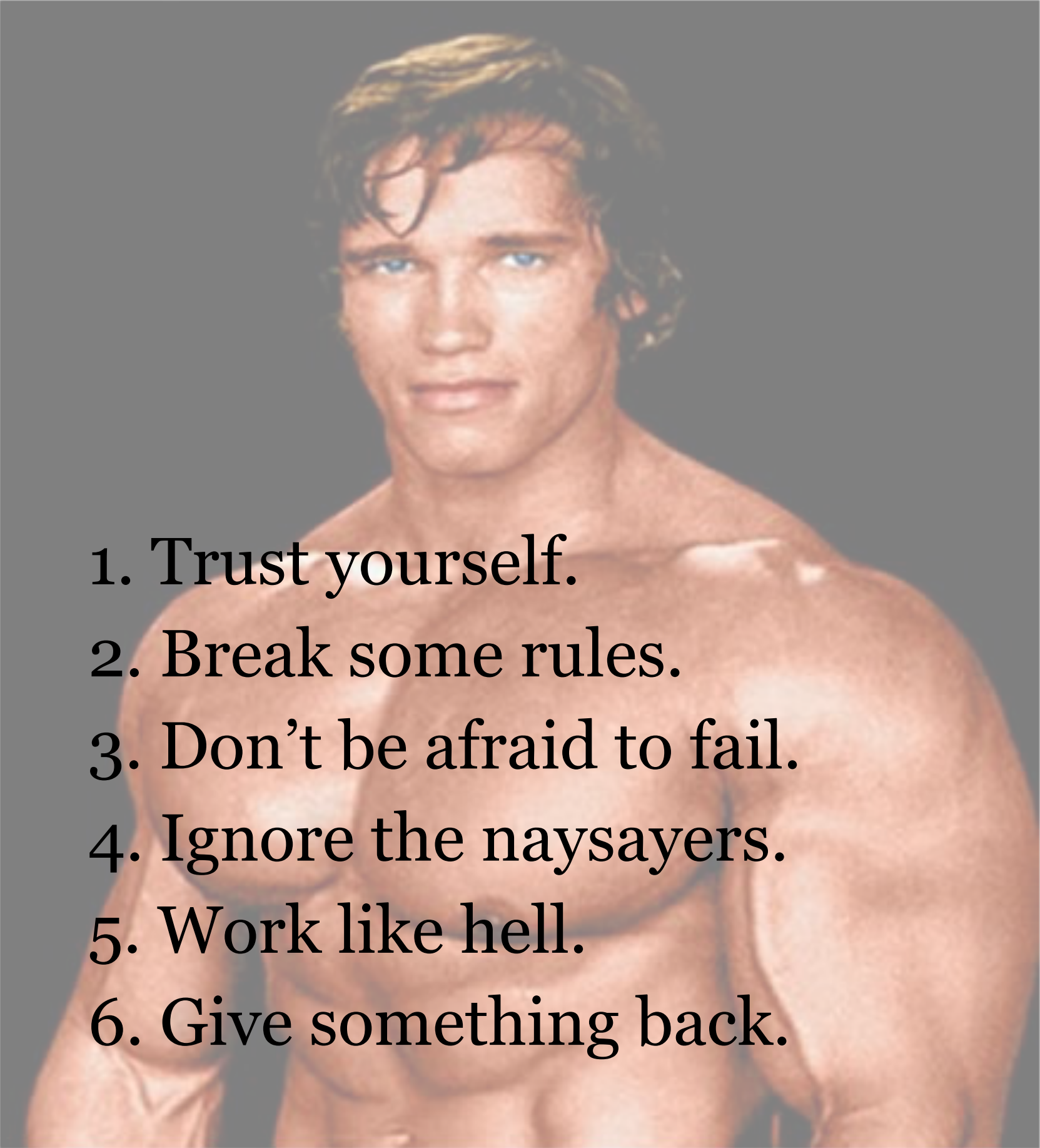
Theodore Roosevelt

No fine work can be done without concentration and self-sacrifice and toil and doubt.



Max Beerhohm

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER'S 6 RULES FOR SUCCESS

- 
1. Trust yourself.
 2. Break some rules.
 3. Don't be afraid to fail.
 4. Ignore the naysayers.
 5. Work like hell.
 6. Give something back.

“Just remember, you can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets.”

DILIGENCE

diligence

attentiveness, exertion, carefulness, application, vigor, intensity, alertness

1. Conscientiousness or determination or perseverance when doing something.
2. Careful and persistent work or effort.

Diligence is a byproduct of passion or duty. As the saying goes: the devil is in the detail. We can just finish the project or we can finish the project brilliantly, paying attention even to the smallest of details. What is the difference between just finishing a project and finishing it brilliantly? Passion for some and duty for others.

When we attach our name to a project, we become diligent toward its end. To ensure diligence, attach our name and reputation to a project.

Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration.



Thomas Edison

If you work hard enough and assert yourself, and use your mind and imagination, you can shape the world to your desires.



Malcolm Gladwell

1. Get a goal.
2. Get a plan.
3. Get up off your ass.



Ken Jeong, *Pain & Gain*

The hand of the diligent will rule, while the lazy will be put to forced labor.



Naturalopist



There is no substitute for hard work.

Thomas Edison



Every morning you have two choices: continue to sleep with dreams or wake up and chase your dreams.

Naturalopist



You become what you think about all day long.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.

Helen Keller

We don't have time for shortcuts.



Naturalopist



All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 14:23

Practice makes perfect.

**Practice
Makes
Perfect**

Motherly Advice

Being busy does not always mean real work. The object of all work is production or accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose, as well as perspiration. Seeming to do is not doing.



Thomas Edison

Details matter, it's worth waiting to get it right.



Steve Jobs



If you look at successful people, they make decisions that other people look at as being weird, crazy, odd, strange. They're not like normal people. They're visionaries. They see things a lot differently. Where you and I may look and say, "That's the colour red." They say, "No, that's maroon."

Rodney Harrison, New England Patriots



Become addicted to constant and never-ending self-improvement.

Anthony J. D'Angelo

The devil is in the detail.



Naturalopist

Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.



Abraham Lincoln



My one aim was to do a thing well and to excel if possible.

Josephine demott Robinson



To read attentively—not to be satisfied with “just getting the gist of it.” And not to fall for smooth talkers.

Marcus Aurelius

Out of the strain of doing, into the peace of done.



Julia Louise Woodruff

Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going.



Jim Rohn

If your determination is fixed, I do not counsel you to despair. Few things are impossible to diligence and skill. Great works are performed not by strength, but perseverance.



Samuel Johnson

Focus is key. You can only do so many things well, and you should cast aside everything else.



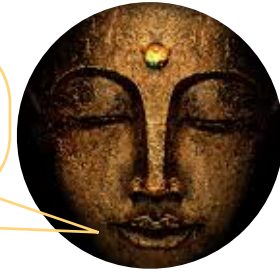
Tim Cook

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.



Ralph Waldo Emerson

Chaos is inherent in all compounded things.
Strive on with diligence.



Buddha

Leaders aren't born; they are made. And they are made just like anything else: through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal.



Vince Lombardi



Elon Musk

In the beginning there will be few people who believe in you or in what you're doing but then over time the evidence will build and more and more people will believe in what you're doing. So, I think it's a good idea when creating a company to have a demonstration or to be able to sketch something so people can really envision what it is about. Try to get to that point as soon as possible.



William Penn

Patience and Diligence, like faith,
remove mountains.



If you do the little jobs well, the big ones will tend to take care of themselves.

Dale Carnegie



What we hope ever to do with ease, we must first learn to do with diligence.

Samuel Johnson

I never did anything by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident; they came by work.



Thomas Edison

Ennoble yourself; work on your dream everyday.



Trung Nguyen



Without hard work, nothing grows but weeds.

Gordon B. Hinckley

Creativity itself doesn't care at all about results—the only thing it craves is the process. Learn to love the process and let whatever happens next happen, without fussing too much about it. Work like a monk, or a mule, or some other representative metaphor for diligence. Love the work. Destiny will do what it wants with you, regardless.



Elizabeth Gilbert



Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work.

Stephen King

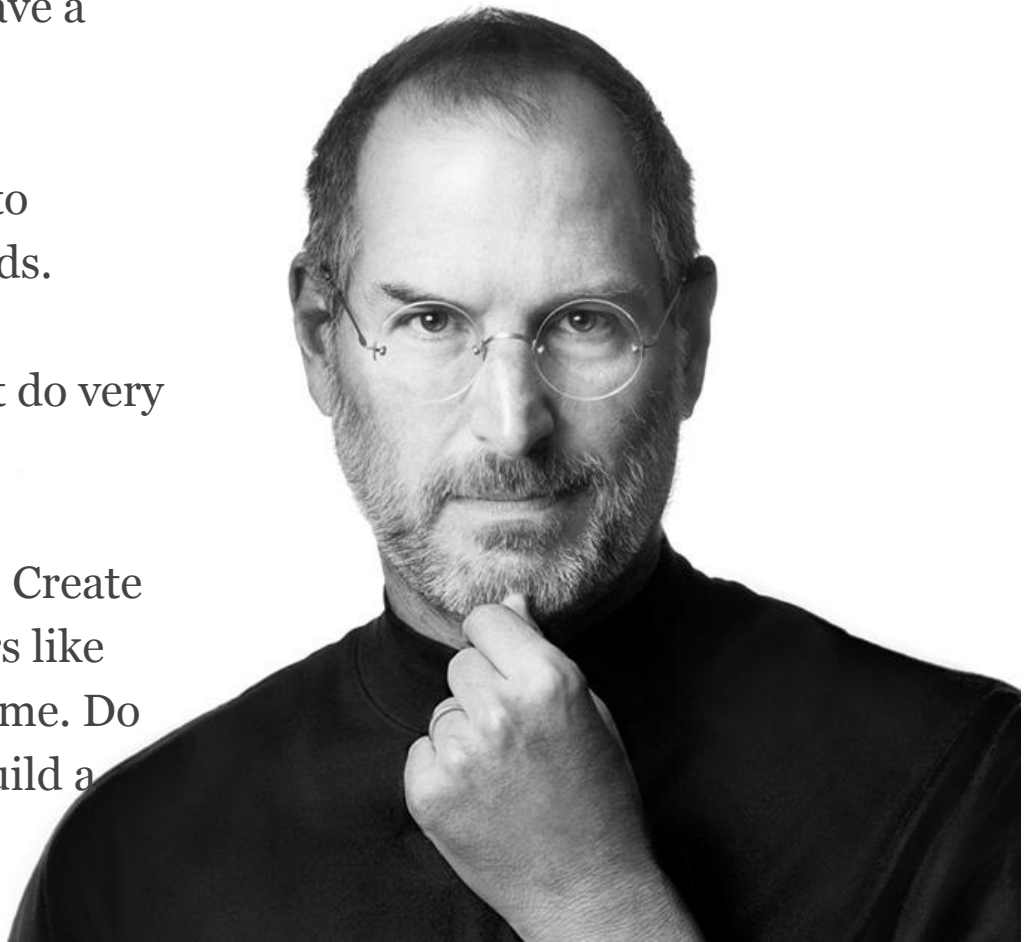
I know you've heard it a thousand times before. But it's true—hard work pays off. If you want to be good, you have to practice, practice, practice. If you don't love something, then don't do it.



Ray Bradbury

STEVE JOBS'S 7 RULES OF SUCCESS

1. Do what you love. People with passion can change the world.
2. Put a dent in the Universe. Have a HUGE vision.
3. Get out of your comfort zone to connect ideas from different fields.
4. Choose what you do and don't do very wisely.
5. Enrich your customers's lives. Create an experience for your customers like they never had before. Be awesome. Do something new and different. Build a brand!
6. Be a Master Communicator. Inform, educate, inspire, entertain. Master your presentation.
7. Sell dreams, not products. Understand and know your customers. Know that they care about themselves, their hopes, dreams, and ambitions. Help your customers reach their dreams and you'll win them over.



PERSEVERANCE

perseverance

constancy, steadfastness, persistence, dedication, endurance, grit, continuance

1. Continuing in a course of action without regard to discouragement, opposition or previous failure.
2. Persistent determination to adhere to a plan of direction; insistence.

Never, never, never quit! Churchill's phrase sums up perseverance nicely.

If we start something, finish it! Through thick and thin.

Be a finisher. Or live with regret.

Choose to be a finisher. Be a finisher.

Head down, nose to the grindstone, and keep pushing until it's done...

When you have exhausted all possibilities,
remember this: you haven't.

Thomas Edison



Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will
take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway.



Earl Nightingale

Don't quit! Suffer now and live the
rest of your life as a champion.

Muhammed Ali



The difficulties you meet will resolve themselves
as you advance. Proceed, and light will dawn, and
shine with increasing clearness on your path.



Jim Rohn

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.



Confucius



Napoleon Hill

Opportunity often comes disguised in the form of misfortune, or temporary defeat.

Hope is not a strategy. Complaining is not a strategy.



Jeff Bezos

Every farmer knows that you can't sow and reap on the same day. There is a timetable for your harvest that requires both working and waiting. Patience is a small price to pay for what you will receive.



Neil Eskelin

The difference in winning and losing is most often not quitting.



Walt Disney



You have to get knocked down many times, and shake it off. Life is about ups and downs, and you have to keep standing up.

Herschel Walker



If plan A doesn't work, the alphabet has 25 more letters! Stay cool.

Naturalopist

Pain is nothing compared to what it feels like to quit. Give everything you've got today, for tomorrow may never come.



Dan Gable



A journey of a thousand miles
begins with the first step.

Lao Tzu

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.



Thomas Edison



The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just.

Abraham Lincoln

It still holds true that man is most uniquely human when he turns obstacles into opportunities.



Eric Hoffer

Patience, persistence, and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success.



Napoleon Hill

The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.



Amelia Earhart

I've lived long life, Cadmos, but the glory and the memory of men will always belong to the ones who follow their great visions.



Ptolemy

The road to your dreams is riddled with difficulties, naysayers, obstacles, doubters, delays, and setbacks. Embrace, even enjoy, them because they're part of the learning process required to manifest dreams into reality.



Trung Nguyen



Never, never, never give up.

Winston Churchill

Having a dream is what keeps you alive. Overcoming the challenges make life worth living.



Mary Tyler Moore



Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did.

Newt Gingrich



When you want something bad enough, it's going to happen for you.

Jon "Bones" Jones



Three things that are most essential to achievement are common sense, hard work, and stick-to-it-iv-ness.

Thomas Edison

If I were dropped out of a plane into the ocean and told the nearest land was a thousand miles away, I'd still swim. And I'd despise the one who gave up.



Abraham Maslow

Patience, persistence, and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success.



Napoleon Hill

The harder you work, the better you sleep.



Trung Nguyen

The greatest results in life are usually attained by simple means and the exercise of ordinary qualities. These may for the most part be summed in these two: common-sense and perseverance.



Owen Feltham

Never discourage anyone who continually makes progress, no matter how slow.



Plato

Results? Why man, I have gotten lots of results! If I find 10,000 ways something won't work, I haven't failed. I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is often a step forward.



Thomas Edison



Bruce Lee

If you always put limits on everything you do, physical or anything else, it will spread into your work and into your life. There are no limits. There are only plateaus, and you must not stay there, you must go beyond them.

SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE VERSUS UNSUCCESSFUL PEOPLE



SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE	UNSUCCESSFUL PEOPLE
Have a sense of gratitude	Have a sense of entitlement
Compliment people	Criticize people
Forgive others	Hold a grudge
Give others credit for their victories	Take all the credit for their victories
Accept responsibility for their failure	Blame others for their failure
Read everyday	Watch TV everyday
Keep a journal	Say they keep a journey but don't
Discuss ideas	Gossip about people
Want others to succeed	Secretly or openly hope others fail
Share information	Horde information
Develop plans and set goals	Operate on a transactional perspective
Keep a "to do" list	Go with the flow, whatever is popular
Exude joy	Exude grudge and anger; victim mentality
Embrace change	Fear and resist change
Work hard	Take shortcuts
Think long-term	Think day-to-day
Accept failure as part of success	Fear failure; paralysis by analysis

LEADERSHIP

leadership

influence, sway, skill, authority, foresight, management, guidance

1. The characteristics of leading by the leader.
2. Possessing the ability or capacity to lead others.

A great leader is a dynamic communicator and an understanding coach who leads by example. If we lead people with selfish motives, it's a recipe for a dysfunctional organization. So, lead with the goals of the team in mind.

If we want people to follow us, ask ourself, “What is in it for them?”

A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves.



Lao Tzu

Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.



Jack Welch

The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.



Jim Rohn



Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.

Warren Bennis

Outstanding leaders go out of their way to boost the self-esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it's amazing what they can accomplish.



Sam Walton

My own definition of leadership is this: The capacity and the will to rally men and women to a common purpose and the character which inspires confidence.



General Montgomery

You can't help someone get up a hill without getting closer to the top yourself.



Norman Schwarzkopf



Leaders think and talk about the solutions.
Followers think and talk about the problems.

Brian Tracy

No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it.

Andrew Carnegie



Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm.

Publilius Syrus

Leadership is lifting a person's vision to high sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations.

Peter Drucker



He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander.

Aristotle

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

John Maxwell



Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.

General George Patton



A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent.

Douglas MacArthur



The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.

Theodore Roosevelt

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

John Quincy Adams



Brian Tracy

The best leaders don't create followers, they create leaders.



Steve Jobs

Somebody once told me, "Manage the top line, and the bottom line will follow." What's the top line? It's things like, why are we doing this in the first place? What's our strategy? What are customers saying? How responsive are we? Do we have the best products and the best people? Those are the kind of questions you have to focus on.

A great person attracts great people and knows how to hold them together.

Johann Goethe

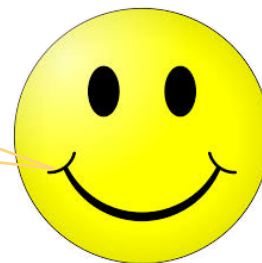


The most dangerous leadership myth is that leaders are born—that there is a genetic factor to leadership. That's nonsense; in fact, the opposite is true. Leaders are made rather than born.



Warren Bennis

Throw me to the wolves and I will return leading the pack.



Naturalist

Leadership is simply the ability of an individual to coalesce the efforts of other individuals toward achieving common goals. It boils down to looking after your people and ensuring that, from top to bottom, everyone feels part of the team.



Frederick W. Smith

My job is not to be easy on people.
My job is to make them better.



Steve Jobs



It is a fine thing to have ability, but the ability to discover ability in others is the true test.

Elbert Hubbard

Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better.



Bill Bradley



If your success is defined as being well-adjusted to injustice and well adapted to indifference, then we don't want successful leaders. We want great leaders—who love the people enough and respect the people enough to be unbought, unbound, unafraid, and unintimidated to tell the difference.

Cornel West

An idealist is a person who helps other people to be prosperous.



Henry Ford

All men who have achieved great things have been great dreamers.



Orison Swett Marden

When I give a minister an order, I leave it to him to find the means to carry it out.



Napoleon Bonaparte

Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.



Harry S. Truman

A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be.



Rosalynn Carter

People buy into the leader before they buy into the vision.

John Maxwell



The planet does not need more successful financial people. The planet desperately needs more successful peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of all kinds.

Dalai Lama XIV

I think that much advice given to young men about saving money is wrong. I never saved a cent until I was forty years old. I invested in myself—in study, in mastering my tools, in preparation. Many a man who is putting a few dollars a week into the bank would do much better to put it into himself.

Henry Ford



Pride is more difficult to subdue than a wild lion. If you can't swallow your pride, you can't lead. A leader can never be happy until his people are happy.



Genghis Khan

The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant.



Max DePree

A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd.



Max Lucado



Lao Tzu

To lead people, walk behind them.

Don't find fault, find a remedy.

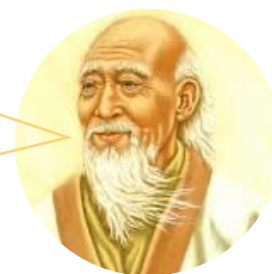


Henry Ford

THE MATRIX OF LEADERSHIP



A leader is best when people barely know he exists,
when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say,
“We did it ourselves.”



Lao Tzu

TEAMWORK

teamwork

synergy, symbiosis, unity, alliance, help, combined effort, coalition

1. The cooperative effort of a team of people for a common end.
2. The ability to work efficiently as a team.

If one person can do something in 20 hours, two people can do it in seven hours, and three people can do it in two hours. This is the efficiency and synergy of teamwork.

An ambitious goal can only be accomplished with a dedicated team working toward a common end. When we want to accomplish something great, leave Mr. Ego at the door and do what is good for the team. This could mean stepping out of the way or swallowing our pride to help the team.

In teamwork, we need to accept that it's not who is right, but what is right. Leave Mr. Ego at home and always accept what is right.

Remember teamwork begins by building trust. And the only way to do that is to overcome our need for invulnerability.



Patrick Lencioni



Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.

Michael Jordan

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.



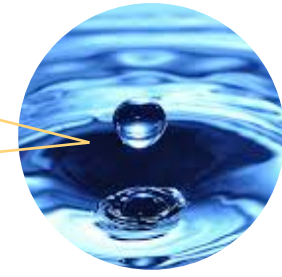
Henry Ford



Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.

Helen Keller

Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.



Ryunosuke Satoro



Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.

Vince Lombardi



A lot of people, when a guy scores a lot of goals, think, “He’s a great player”, because a goal is very important, but a great player is a player who can do everything on the field. He can do assists, encourage his colleagues, give them confidence to go forward. It is someone who, when a team does not do well, becomes one of the leaders.

Pele

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.



Andrew Carnegie



A single arrow is weak and easy to break, but many arrows in a bundle are strong and hard to break.

Genghis Khan



The strength of the team is each individual member.
The strength of each member is the team.

Phil Jackson

The best teamwork comes from men who are working independently toward one goal in unison.



James Cash

Teamwork is so important that it is virtually impossible for you to reach the heights of your capabilities or make the money that you want without becoming very good at it.



Brian Tracy

If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.



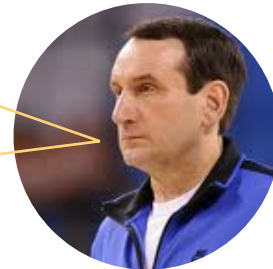
Henry Ford

I invite everyone to chose forgiveness rather than division, teamwork over personal ambition.



Jean-Francois Cope

To me, teamwork is the beauty of our sport, where you have five acting as one. You become selfless.



Mike Krzyzewski

When you form a team, why do you try to form a team? Because teamwork builds trust and trust builds speed.



Russel Honore

STEVE JOBS'S 12 RULES OF SUCCESS



**KEEP CALM
TEAMWORK
MAKES THE
DREAM
WORK**

MONEY

money

capital, land, labour, resources, legal tender, medium of exchange

1. An item of value between two parties used for the exchange of goods or services.

Money is not the root of all evil. It's how we obtain it and what we intend to do with it that determines if it is the root of good or evil. Money equals financial wealth but not necessarily spiritual wealth. Surveys have shown that the richest people in the world are not necessarily the happiest.

The majority of financially wealthy people have something in common: they provide goods and/or services that people need or want. What good or service can you conjure that people would need or want? Or can you build a better mouse trap?



"Yes, the planet got destroyed. But for a beautiful moment in time we created a lot of value for shareholders."

Do what you love and the money will follow.



Marsha Sinetar

What is money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in-between does what he wants do to.



Bob Dylan

It's not how much money we make that ultimately makes us happy between nine and five. It's whether or not our work fulfills us.



Malcolm Gladwell

Morals before money. Money will come.



Naturalopist

We will receive not what we idly wish for but what we justly earn. Our rewards will always be in exact proportion to our service.



Earl Nightingale



The punishment of wealth is boredom.

Arthur Schopenhauer

If you wish to get rich, save what you get. A fool can earn money; but it takes a wise man to save and dispose of it to his own advantage.



Brigham Young

Laura D. Adams



If money management isn't something you enjoy, consider my perspective. I look at managing my money as if it were a part-time job. The time you spend monitoring your finances will pay off. You can make real money by cutting expenses and earning more interest on savings and investments. I'd challenge you to find a part-time job where you could potentially earn as much money for just an hour or two of your time.



If you buy things you do not need, soon you will have to sell things you need.

Warren Buffett

It's funny how men can be so smart with business yet so dumb with women.



Joe Malo



If you know how to make money you should know how to manage it. Expecting someone else, even an accountant, to responsibly manage your money is unreasonable.

Naturalopist

When it comes to blood and money, we are all the same colours.



Trung Nguyen

Only when the last tree has been cut, the last fish caught, and the last river poisoned, will we realize we cannot eat money.



Cree Proverb

As my father used to say, “There are two sure ways to lose a friend, one is to borrow, the other to lend.”



Patrick Rothfuss



A borrower is a slave to the lender.

Naturalopist

Neither a borrower nor a lender be, for loan oft loses both itself and friend, and borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.



William Shakespeare



Steve Jobs

Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn't matter to me. Going to bed at night saying we've done something wonderful. That's what matters to me.



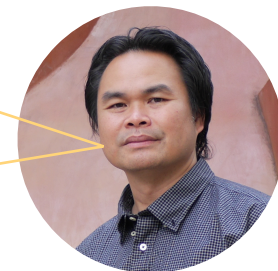
Natasha Munson

Money, like emotions, is something you must control to keep your life on the right track.



Warren Buffett

Money has given me the independence to do what I love daily. Beyond that it has no real utility for me but has enormous utility for others. That is why I'm giving it away.



Trung Nguyen

Money is not the root of all evil. It's how you attain it and your purpose for it that determines its label.

He who will not economize will have to agonize.

Confucius



If you are earning money in your career but are not transforming into the person you wish to become, your career and spirit will eventually die.

Stefan Aarnio



A man is rich in proportion to the number of things which he can afford to let alone.

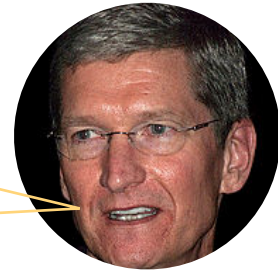
Henry David Thoreau

The less you can live on, the more chance your idea will succeed. This is true even after you've "made it."



Hugh Macleod

We do a lot of things for reasons besides profit motive. We want to leave the world better than we found it.



Tim Cook

You will become what you act like. If you want to get out of debt and save money, follow examples of people who have done it successfully.



Dave Ramsey

It's not how much you make but how much you keep. A penny saved is a penny earned.



Benjamin Franklin

Everyone wants to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down.



Oprah Winfrey

Too many people spend money they haven't earned, to buy things they don't want, to impress people that they don't like.



Will Rogers

While money can't buy happiness, it certainly lets you choose your own form of misery.



Groucho Marx

He is richest who is content with the least, for content is the wealth of nature.



Socrates

Money has never made man happy, nor will it, there is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more of it one has the more one wants.



Benjamin Franklin

Make money your god, and it will plague you like the devil.

Henry Fielding



You can only become truly accomplished at something you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead, pursue the things you love doing, and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off you.



Maya Angelou



Not he who has much is rich, but he who gives much.

Erich Fromm

A fool and his money are soon parted.



Thomas Tusser

If you really think the environment is more important than the economy, try holding your breath while you count your money.



Guy McPherson

Steve Jobs



You know, my main reaction to this money thing is that it's humorous, all the attention to it, because it's hardly the most insightful or valuable thing that's happened to me.

10 Things Money Can't Buy

1. Love
2. Morals
3. Respect
4. Character
5. Common sense
6. Trust
7. Patience
8. Class
9. Integrity
10. Manners

You need all those qualities to make and keep money!

Health + knowledge + hard work + perseverance = Wealth.
They will carry you through many hardships in life.



Trung Nguyen



A man who dies rich dies disgraced.

Andrew Carnegie

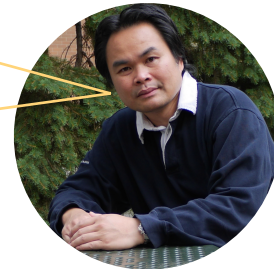
I was worth over \$1 million when I was 23, and over \$10 million when I was 24, and over \$100 million when I was 25, and it wasn't that important because I never did it for the money.



Steve Jobs

Money is a tangible product of intangible skills.

Trung Nguyen



Everyday is a bank account, and time is our currency. No one is rich, no one is poor, we've got 24 hours each.

Christopher Rice

THE MISER AND HIS GOLD

Once upon a time there was a Miser who hid his gold at the foot of a tree in his garden. Every week he would go and dig it up and gloat over his treasure. A robber, who had noticed this, one day went and dug up the gold and decamped with it. When the Miser next came to gloat over his treasure, he found nothing but the empty hole. He tore his hair and raised such an outcry that all the neighbours came around him. He told them how he used to visit his gold.

“Did you ever take any of it out?” asked one of them.

“Nay,” said the Miser, “I only came to look at it.”

“Then come again and look at the hole,” said a neighbour. “It will do you just as much good.”



Aesop

Morals and lessons covered by Aesops' Fables:

- honesty is the best policy,
- appearances are deceiving,
- do not bite the hand that feeds you,
- **it is better to be frugal than greedy,**
- a bird in one hand is better than two birds in the bush,
- do not trust those who flatter you,
- you cannot argue a coward into courage,
- do not count your chicks before they hatch, and
- do not believe the promises of a desperate man.

ORIGIN

evolution

change, growth, development, progression, transformation, natural process

1. The change in the genetic composition of a population over successive generations.

abiogenesis

spontaneous order, spontaneous generation

1. The natural process of life arising from non-living matter such as simple inorganic compounds.

The origin of life debate consists of two camps: Evolutionists versus Creationists. Or science versus religion, abiogenesis versus biogenesis, empirical evidence versus myth, and Darwinism versus Creationism. These theories are incompatible with each other. In many cases, they contradict each other. However, there is only one truth.

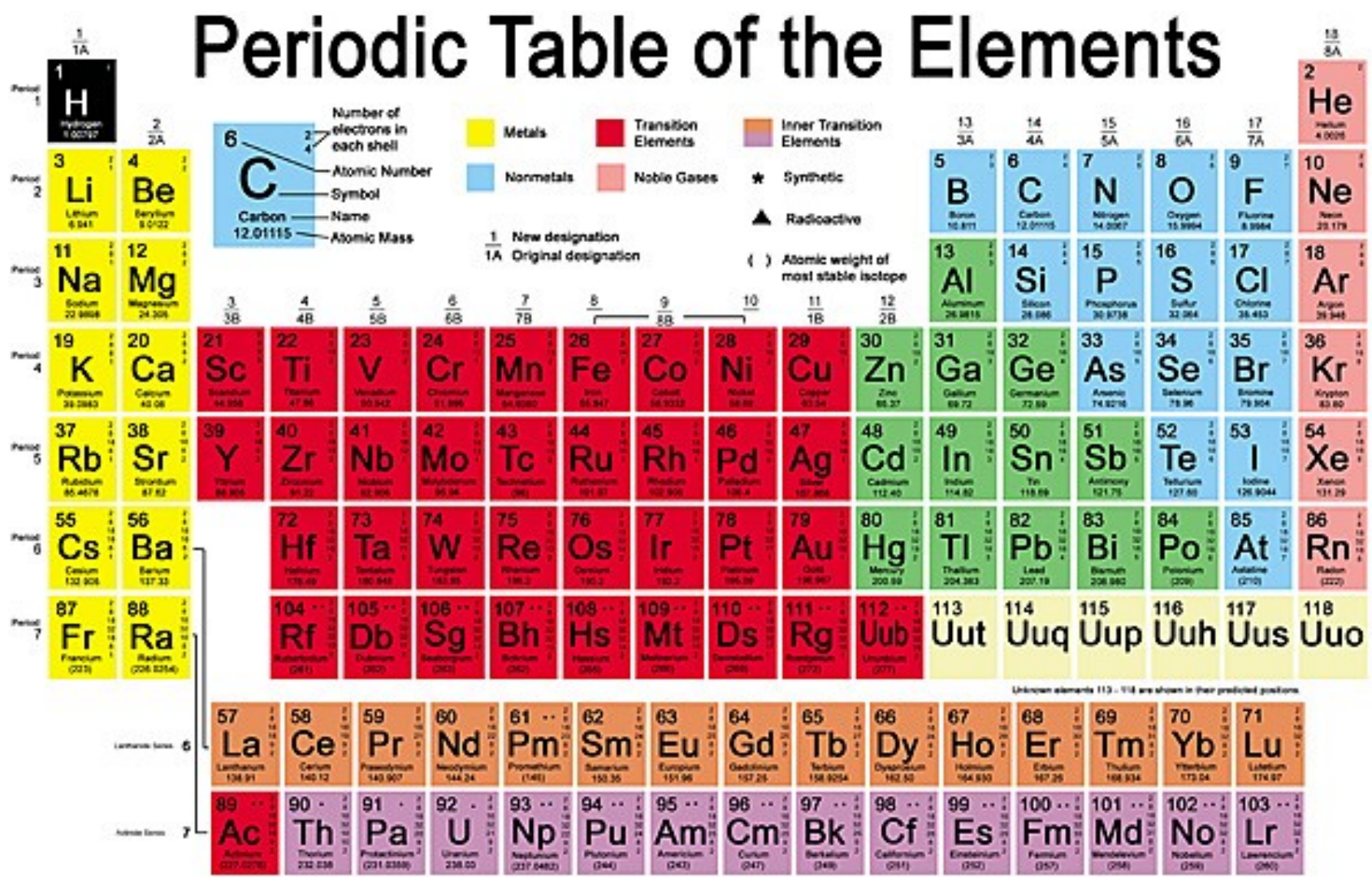
Creationists believe that roughly 6,000 - 10, 000 years ago, god created the Universe and Earth in 6 days and rested on the 7th day, thus Sunday. Creationists also believe in biogenesis—that only living organisms can create other living organisms. Creationists point to the Periodic Table of the Elements, in which all the elements that make up the Universe are inorganic (not living matter, not biological). Therefore, if everything in the Universe is made of inorganic elements, how did organic (biological) life originate from lifeless matter? Creationists also point to the astounding large odds to dismiss the theory of entropy (randomness). Creationists also point to the “missing link” in the theory of evolution—if humans evolved from apes, then why are apes still around?

entropy

decay, breakup, randomness, degeneration, disorder

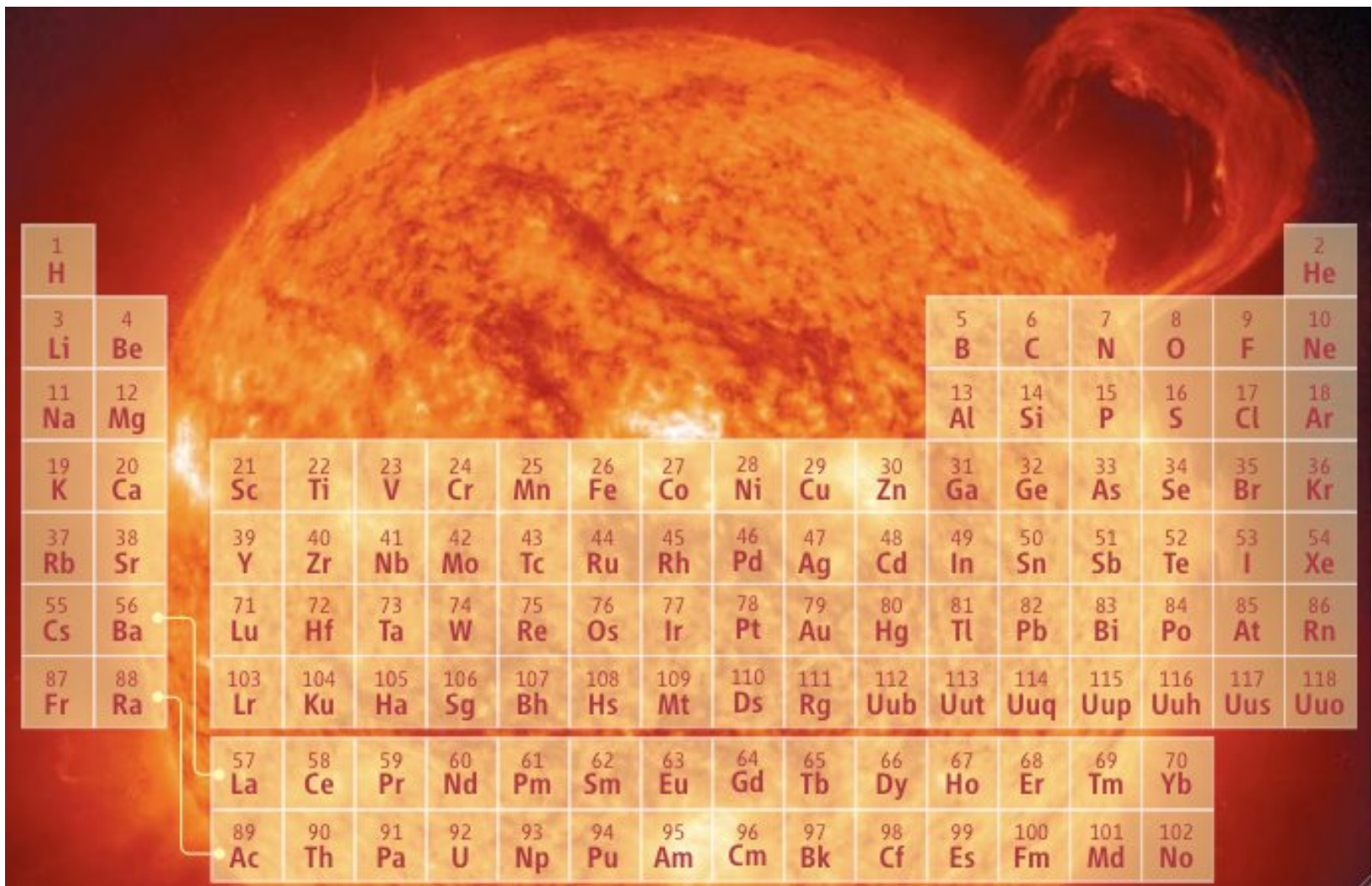
- 1. In thermodynamics, entropy (usual symbol S) is a measure of the number of specific ways in which a thermodynamic system may be arranged, commonly understood as a measure of disorder.
- 2. The tendency of a system that is left to itself to descend into chaos; uncountable.

Note the Periodic Table of the Elements below. It is believed that everything in the cosmos, including humans, is made of the elements listed below. Elements, such as hydrogen and oxygen, are made of atoms; which in turn are made of electrons, protons, and neutrons; which in turn are made of quarks; which in turn are made of the Higgs Boson elemental particle, or particles. For example, the content of the Sun is 71% hydrogen (H) and 27.1% helium (He). In the fantastically hot furnace of the Sun’ core, hy-



drogen and helium (both elements) are fused into heavier elements, such as oxygen(O), carbon(C), nitrogen(N), silicon(Si), magnesium(Mg), neon(Ne), sulfur(S), and iron(Fe). This is an example of how small things become big things in an entropic system, and how simple things become complex things.

When a star, such as our Sun, explodes (supervnova, dies), it gets unimaginably hot and in the process, heavier elements are created, giving birth to asteroids, moons, plan-

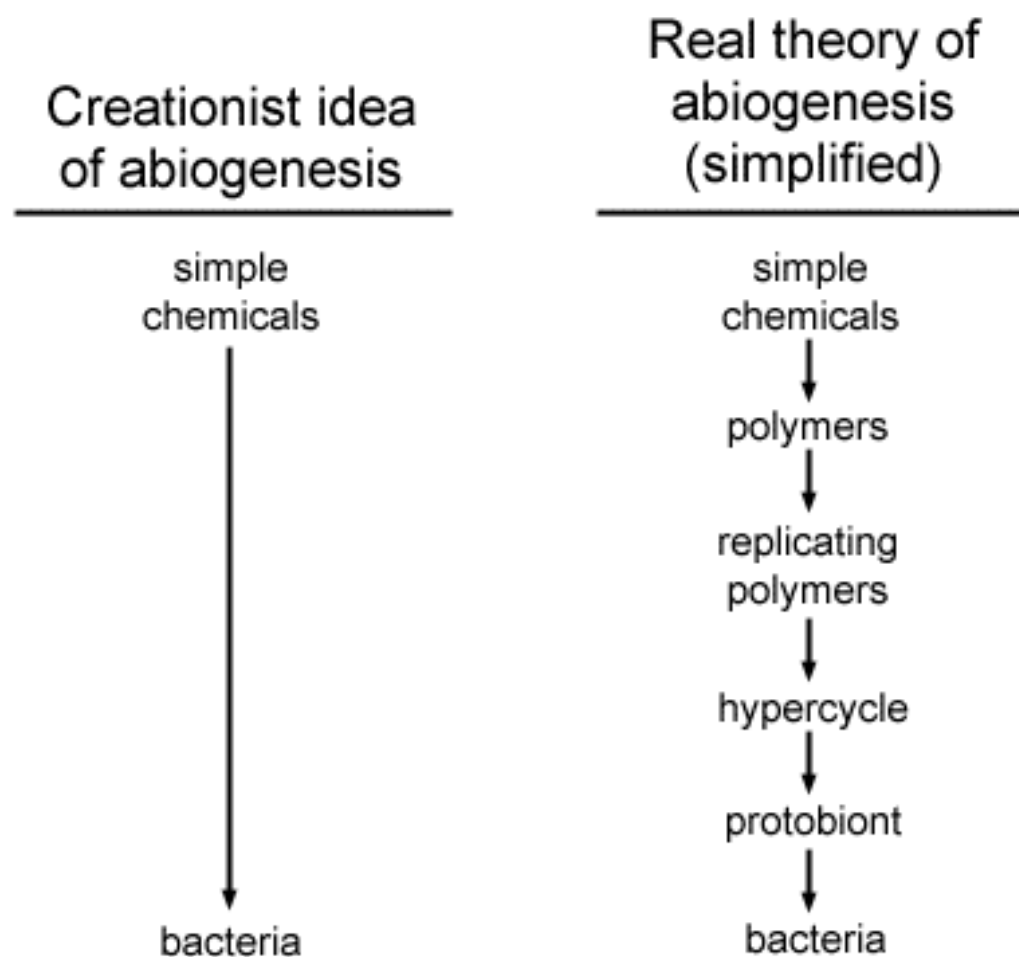


ets, and sometimes new stars. From the inner workings of the Sun, we see a common pattern: given enough time and with the right energy and condition, smaller things become bigger things and simple things become complex things.

However, if everything in the cosmos is made of inorganic elements, how is it possible that biological lifeforms such as plants and humans originated from those lifeless matter? This is the abiogenesis versus biogenesis debate. Creationists believe in biogenesis—that only organic organisms can give life to other organic organisms.

Again, when small things are left alone, with enough time, energy, and entropy working for them, small things become bigger, complex things. Small things amalgamate,

fuse, rearrange, synthesize, and even reproduce. For example, a common compound is water (H₂O), which is made of two elements: hydrogen (H) and oxygen (O).



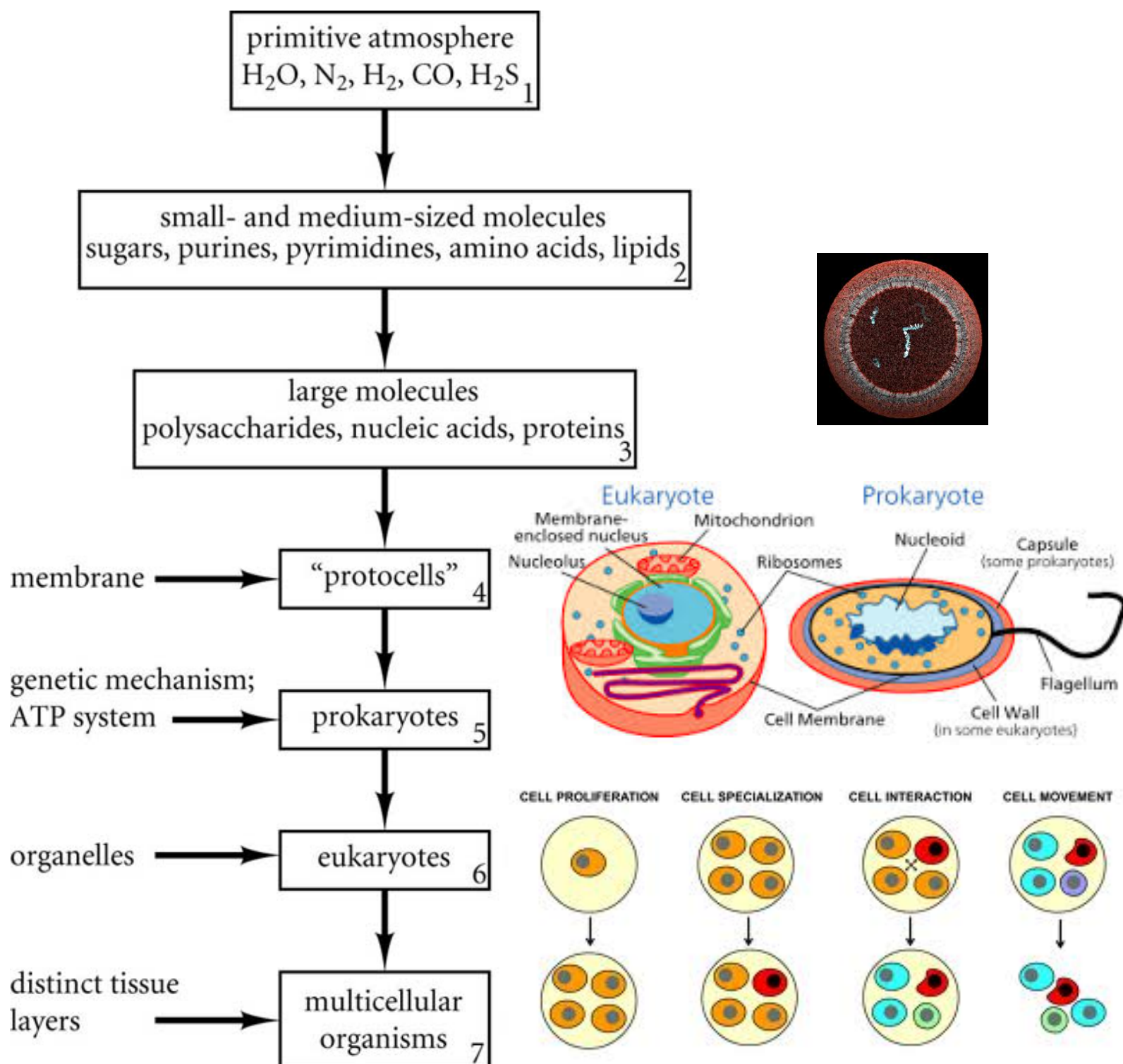
We are infinitesimally small in the infinitely massive cosmos. Our concept of time is in days, weeks, months, and decades—any period longer than eight decades is history to most of us. This is how eighty years looks like: 80 years. Now, imagine 3.55 billion years, or 4.55 billion years, or 13.7 billion years:

- 80 years (average lifespan of many humans)
- 3, 550, 000, 000 years (estimated age of first organic, multicellular organism)
- 4, 550, 000, 000 years (age of Earth)
- 13, 780, 000, 000 years (age of Universe)

We have no personal point of reference or any way to comprehend the staggering expanse of “billions” of years. We only say the billions as a number with a decimal. But behind those billions of years are the processes of entropy and abiogenesis at work. Then add **energy** from radiation, lightning, volcanic eruption, or other energy sources and we have the blueprint for our genetic material.

With enough time, elements amalgamate into simple-inorganic compounds, simple compounds into complex compounds; when energy is added, inorganic compounds turn into organic compounds, organic compounds into molecules, molecules into cells, cells into microbes; microbes and cells into tissues, tissues into organs, organs into multiple organs; into small species, and eventually into humans. It is estimated that the human body has about 100 trillion cells, which varies depending on the mass of the person.

Just like the Sun is comprised of smaller parts, the human body is also comprised of smaller parts. These smaller parts of the Sun and the human body have their beginnings from the Periodical Table of the Elements. And with the blessing of time, entropy, and energy, those elements evolved to form complex, organic matter.



Darwin's Theory Of Evolution—The Premise



Darwin's Theory of Evolution is the widely held notion that all life is related and has descended from a common ancestor: the birds and the bananas, the fishes and the flowers—all related. Darwin's general theory presumes the development of life from non-life and stresses a purely naturalistic (undirected) “descent with modification”. That is, complex creatures evolve from more simplistic ancestors naturally over time. In a nutshell, as random genetic mutations occur within an organism's genetic code, the beneficial mutations are preserved because they aid survival—a process known as “natural selection.” These beneficial mutations are passed on to the next generation. Over time, beneficial mutations accumulate and the result is an entirely different organism (not just a variation of the original, but an entirely different creature). —www.darwins-theory-of-evolution.com

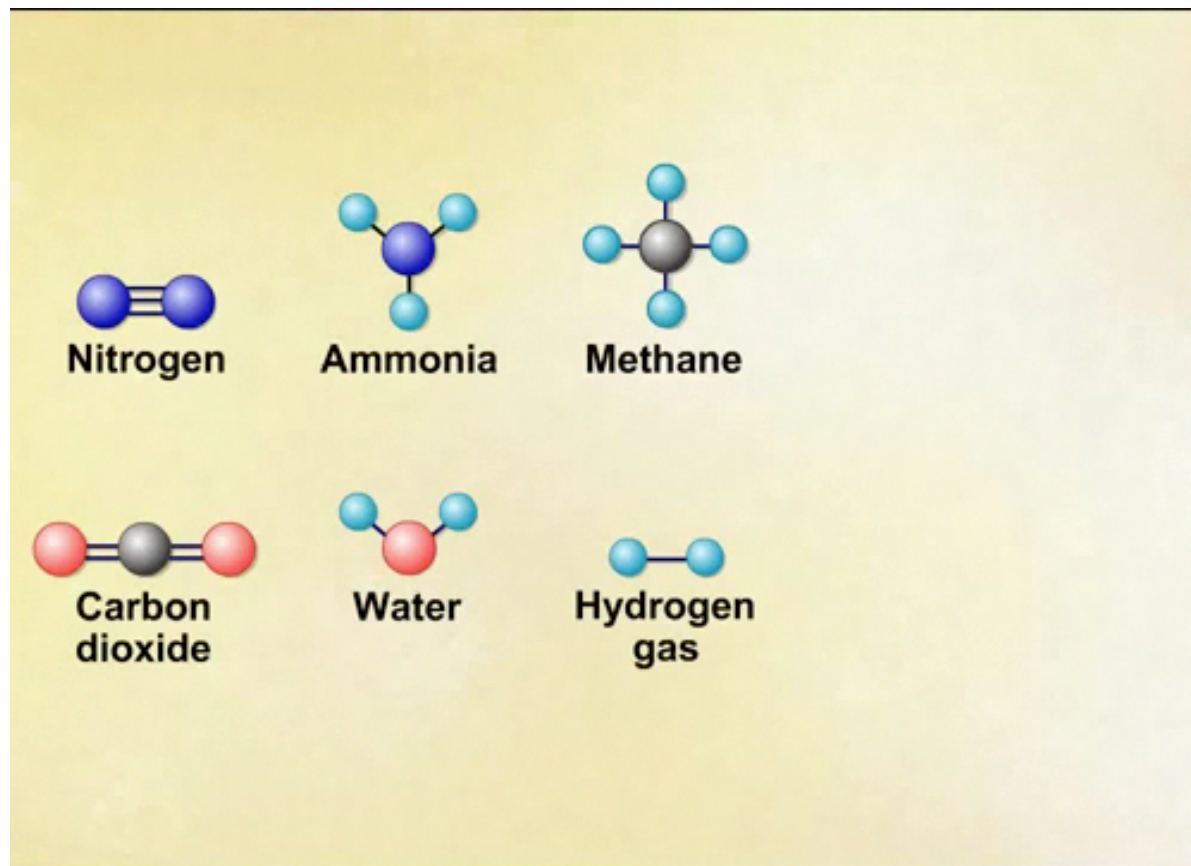
The Missing Link

Creationists point to a perceived flaw in Darwin's theory of evolution: If humans evolved from apes, then why are apes still around? Darwin's theory postulates that humans shared a common ancestor as apes—we did not directly evolve from apes. Therefore, there is no missing link.

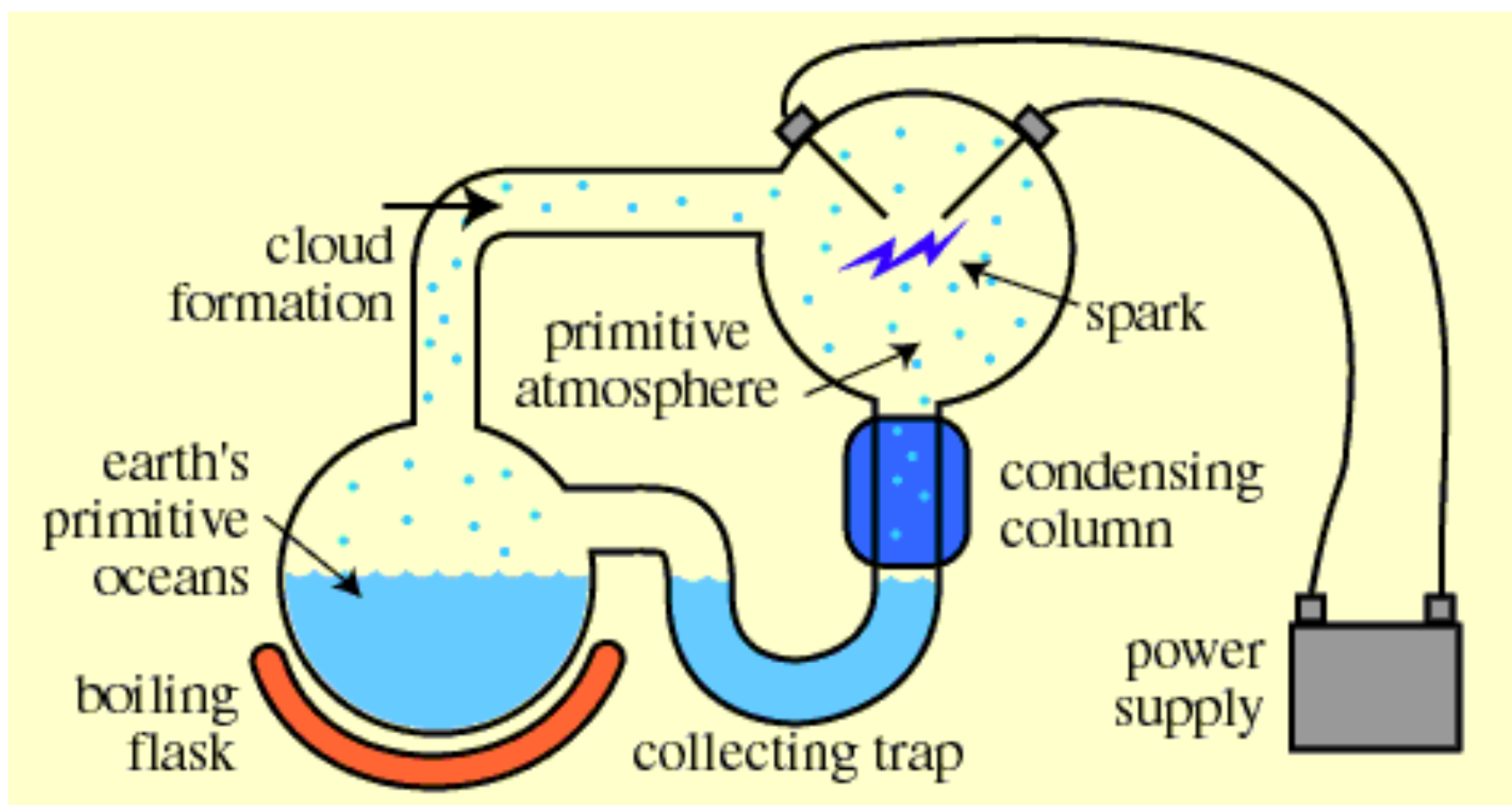
The God Dilemma

We are infinitesimally small in an unimaginably massive cosmos. If there were a god, it would have to be bigger than unimaginably big to have created the Universe and everything in it. If there were a god in this staggering immensity of existence, who is arrogant or delusional enough to think that god would care for her or him? This god, or intelligent designer, would have to be incomprehensibly powerful and its domain so immeasurably vast, that it would not care what we thought of it either way.

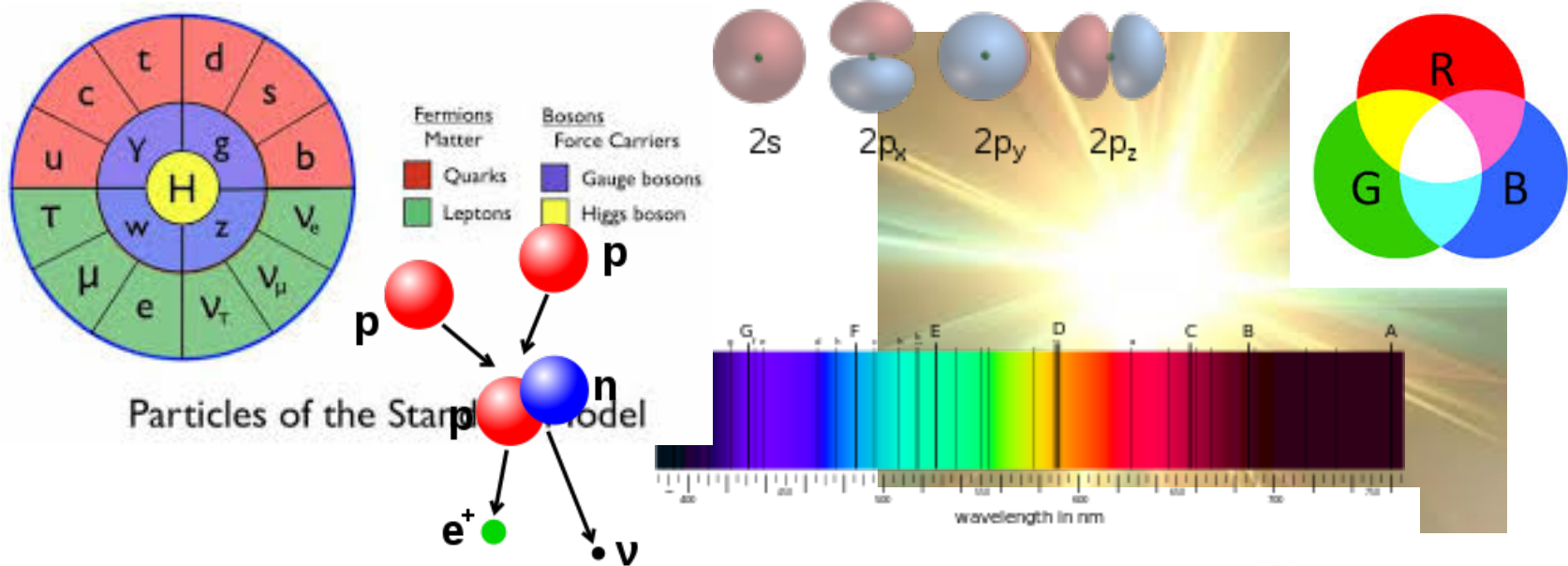
Video: Urey-Miller Experiment, 1953



Turning the inorganic into the organic. Video courtesy of Dr. Prodigious HD Animations.







GROUP 1

1

H

hydrogen

[1.007 - 1.009]

2

He

helium

[4.003]

GROUP 18

18

He

helium

[4.003]

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1

H

hydrogen

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Li

lithium

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Be

beryllium

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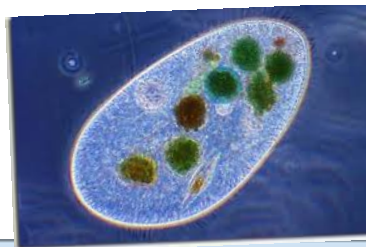
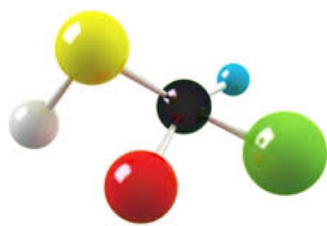
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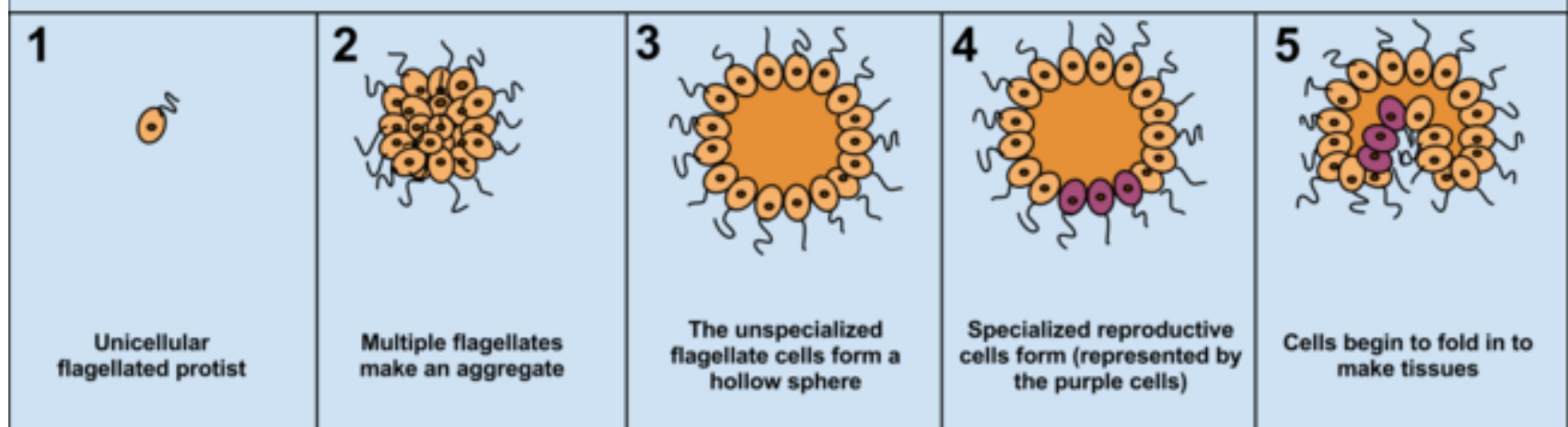
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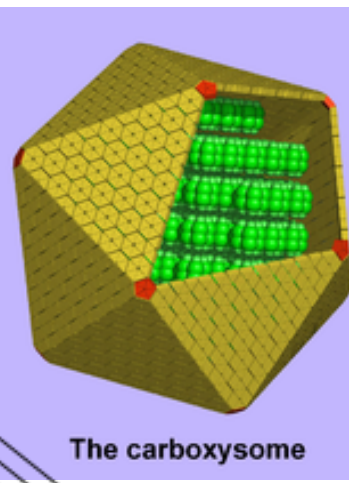
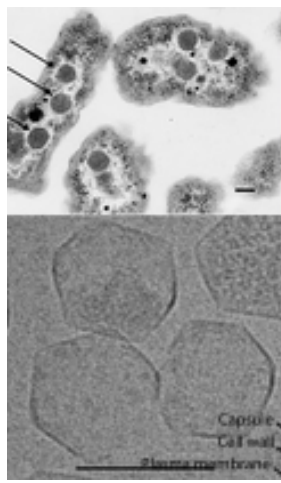
Natural Occurrence: ☐ primordial, ☐ from decay, ☐ synthetic

57 La lanthanum 138.9	58 Ce cerium 140.1	59 Pr praseodymium 140.9	60 Nd neodymium 144.2	61 Pm promethium (145)	62 Sm samarium 150.4	63 Eu europium 152.0	64 Gd gadolinium 157.3	65 Tb terbium 158.9	66 Dy dysprosium 162.5	67 Ho holmium 164.9	68 Er erbium 167.3	69 Tm thulium 168.9	70 Yb ytterbium 173.1	71 Lu lutetium 175.0
89 Ac actinium (227)	90 Th thorium 232.0	91 Pa protactinium 231.0	92 U uranium 238.0	93 Np neptunium (237)	94 Pu plutonium (244)	95 Am americium (243)	96 Cm curium (247)	97 Bk berkelium (247)	98 Cf californium (251)	99 Es einsteinium (252)	100 Fm fermium (257)	101 Md mendelevium (258)	102 No nobelium (259)	103 Lr lawrencium (262)



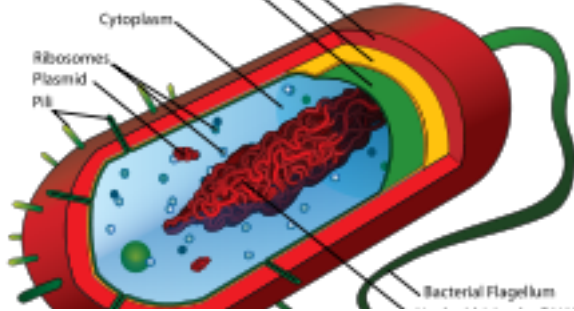
Colonial Flagellate Hypothesis



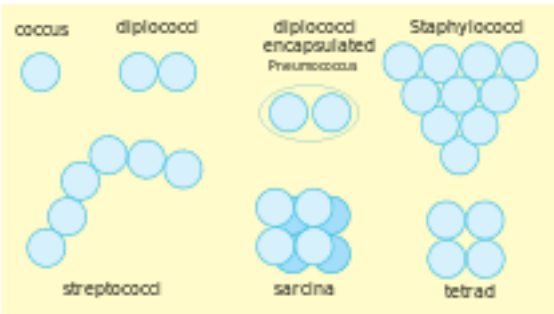


Enzymes and shell proteins

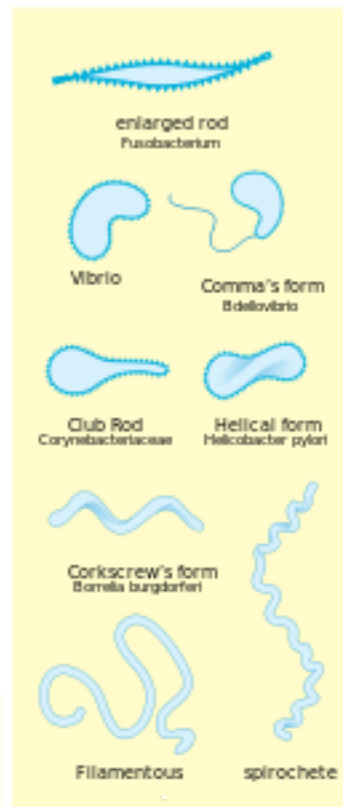
RuBisCO



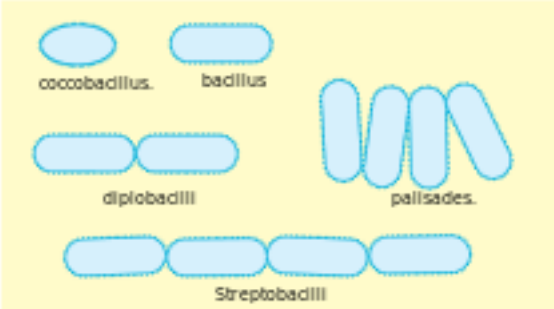
Cocci



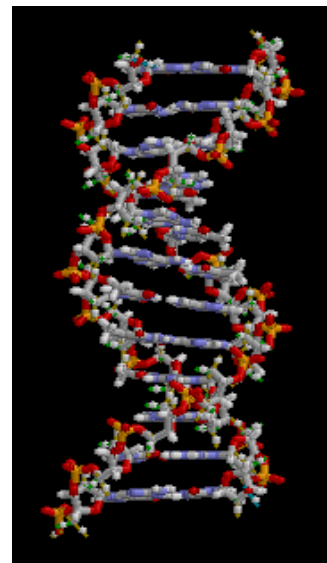
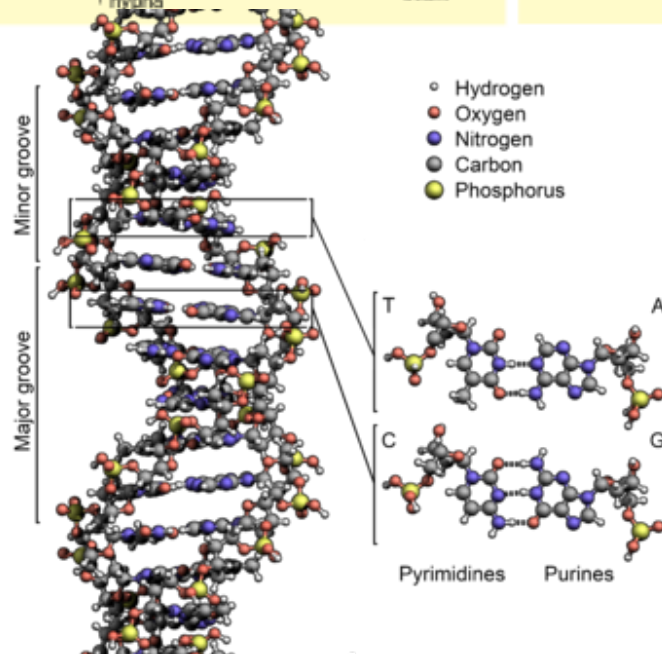
Others



Bacilli



Budding and appendaged bacteria





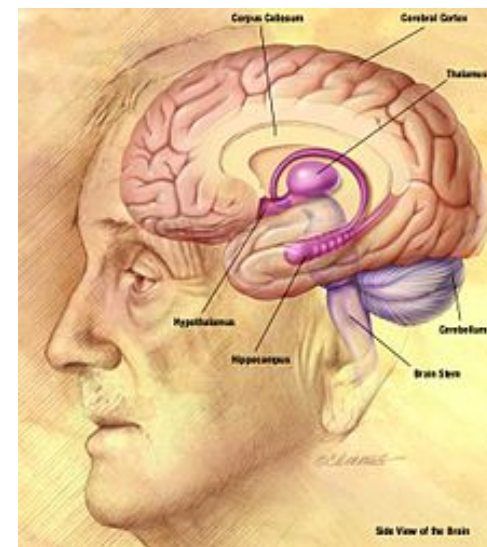
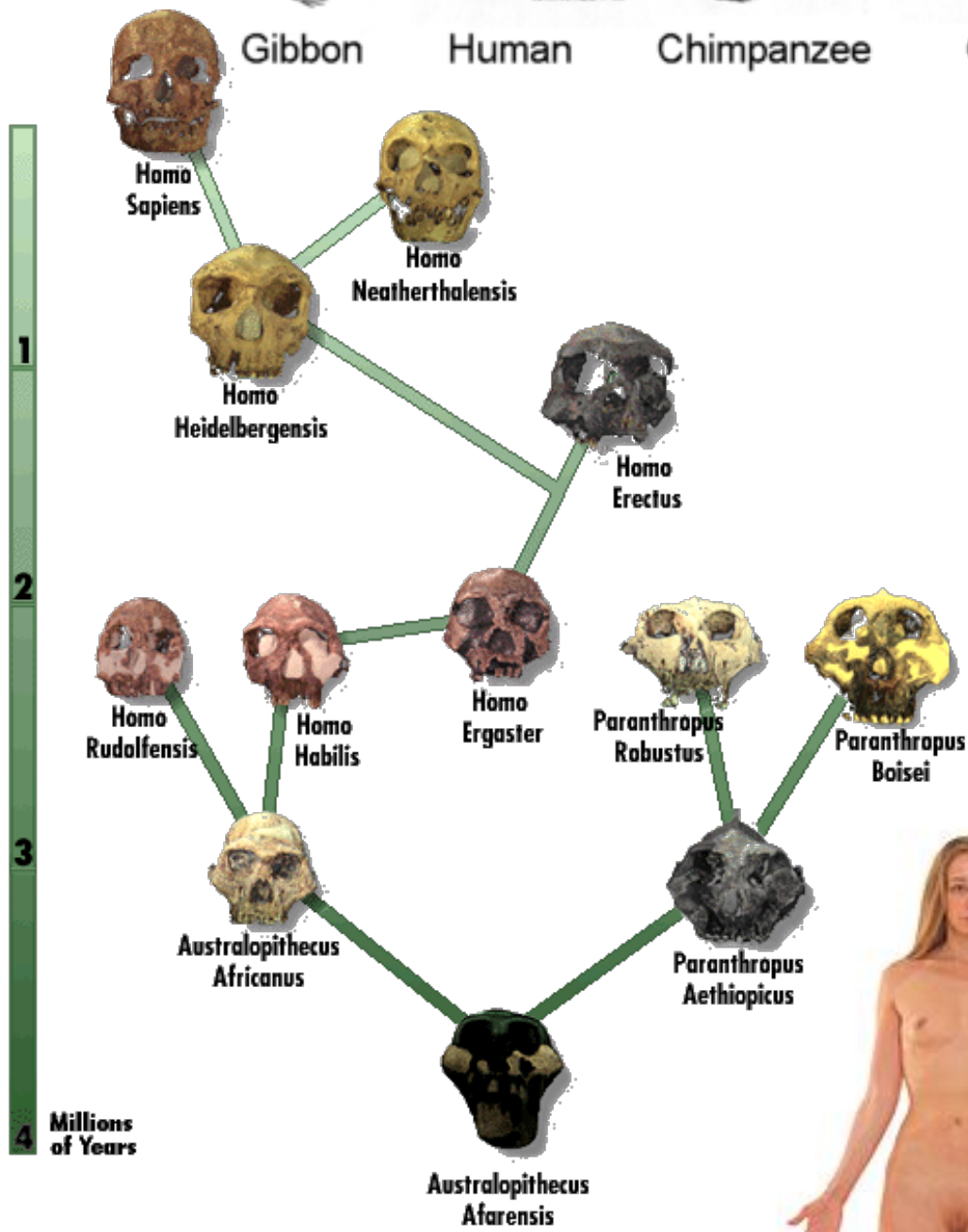
Gibbon

Human

Chimpanzee

Gorilla

Orangutan



THE PALE BLUE DOT

Our planet is a lonely speck in the great
enveloping cosmic dark...

Consider again that dot.

That's here.

That's home.

That's us.

On it everyone you love,
everyone you know,
everyone you ever heard of,
every human being who ever was,
lived out their lives.

The aggregate of our joy and suffering,
thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines,
every hunter and forager,
every hero and coward,
every creator and destroyer of civilization,
every king and peasant,
every young couple in love,
every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer,
every teacher of morals,
every corrupt politician,
every "superstar,"
every "supreme leader,"
every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there—

on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.



Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that in glory and triumph they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot.

Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner.

How frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the universe, are challenged by this point of pale light.

Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark.

In our obscurity—in all this vastness—there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known, so far, to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment,

the Earth is where we make our stand.



Carl Sagan

HUMANITY

NATURALOPY

CELEBRATING HUMANITY

Nature favours diversity to ensure the propagation of her creations; Humanity would be wise to also favour diversity when adopting knowledge. Although diverse and in silos, the foundation for our moral guidelines and belief system have been formulated by Humans before us and those still with us. There is no need to attribute to the gods what Humanity has accomplished. The Sumerians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Egyptians, Romans, Mayans, and other great civilizations of the past once believed in gods. However, their faith did not save their civilizations.

If we are to co-exist, live peacefully, and advance together as a species, we need to abandon our gods, because fables and science are incompatible.

Since time immemorial, our ancestors have conjured ingenious myths and fables to explain the six primary metaphysical questions of existence (the BIG questions):

- Where did we come from?
- What is our purpose in life?
- Why do bad things happen to us?
- Is there a god?
- Are we alone in the Universe?
- What happens to us after we die?

Independently, for millennia, in different continents of the world, small groups of men congregated and concluded that humans could not adequately answer these existential

questions. Therefore, due to our ancestors's limited knowledge of the physical world at the time, they used their brilliant imagination. The answers to these pressing questions were deferred to a higher power, an omnipotent figure or a group of them—god or gods. Within each region of the world, ideas were borrowed and passed down from one religion to another, and as a result of empire building, several religions crossed continents and became pervasive in daily life.

As we are still witnessing, due to perpetual conflict, religion is extremely intrusive and problematic on a global scale. The Jews are still fighting Muslims in Israel-Palestine; Jews and Christians are often at loggerheads; Muslim sects are fighting each other throughout the Middle East; Christians are occupying Muslim countries; and Muslims are persecuting Christians in certain parts of the Middle East. It's a quagmire of hate, and this pattern of hate continues despite the fact that Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are all Abrahamic religions—they share the same root. Each one espouses peace as a central tenet of its religion, but we know it is very different in practice.

The inconsistencies, contradictions, and absurdities of every major religion are so glaring and abundant that it would take an encyclopedia to distill, and even chaff.

Three Religions, One Root, Dozens of Denominations, Countless Interpretations...In Perpetual conflict

First, take the Christians. The Christians believe in the Old Testament and the New Testament bibles, but do not believe in the Torah (Jewish holy book) or Quran (Muslim holy book). Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God sent by god himself to deliver men from their sins. In the Holy Trinity (conceptualized by Theophilus of Antioch, 412 AD.), Christians believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Holy Spirit, and God himself—a 3 for 1 special. The Christian Holy Bible has been translated and re-interpreted several dozen times; therefore, no one knows how different it really is from the original text, if one did exist.

The Christians have been been waiting for over 2,000 years for the second coming of their prophet, Jesus Christ.

500 AD: The Kingdom of Heaven is upon us.

1000 AD: The Kingdom of Heaven is upon us.

1500 AD: The Kingdom of Heaven is upon us.

2000 AD: The Kingdom of Heaven is upon us.

The Kingdom of Heaven is never upon us, for one strange reason or another.

Second, take the Jews. The Jews believe in the Old Testament and the Torah (Talmud), but not the New Testament nor the Quran nor Jesus Christ. The Jews believe Jesus Christ and Muhammad were false prophets. The Jews also believe that they are the Chosen People of god and have been waiting over 5,000 years for their Messiah to appear on Earth. For reasons not generally agreed upon, the Jews have been the most persecuted people in all of Humanity.

Third, take the Muslims. The Muslims believe in every Abrahamic holy book: Old Testament, New Testament (Holy Bible), Torah, and especially Islam's Quran. They also believe in all the Abrahamic prophets and messengers, such as Noah, Moses, Daniel, Elijah, Jesus Christ, and particularly Muhammad. Muslims believe that Muhammed was a prophet and a Messenger of God. Essentially, the Islamic religion is based on the account of one man who claimed he had received the words and will of god through the angel Gabriel. This is religious nuttury at its finest.

The religious madness continues when all the sects (movements, denominations) of each major religion are taken into consideration. The confusion and obfuscation are endless since each group has subgroups (branches) with their own interpretation of the "holy" scriptures. As examples:

Christianity: Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglican, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Protestant, and so on.

Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructional, Hasidism, Kabbalah, and so on.

Islam: Ahmadiyya, Ibadi, Shia, Sufism, Sunni, Wahhabi, Nation of Islam, and so on.

If the word of god is final, then why is it so different? And why are there so many of them? And why do they utterly contradict each other? If we just skim the surface of religion, it would be reasonable to conclude that religion was created like TV channels:

at some point a group felt their interests were not being represented and decided to create a new channel (branch, denomination, sect, group). In this new channel, they concocted whatever they needed in order to attract and appease followers. As long as the sheep watched one channel, everything made sense, and considered divine and brilliant. However, as soon as the followers switched channels (self-education), nothing made sense anymore. There were inconsistencies, absurdities, and bull manure—piles and piles of it. Is it any wonder that the phrase “holy shit” is a cultural lexicon? However, we should applaud our ancestors for having wove brilliantly imaginative stories to explain the nature of existence.

Despite advances in communication, technology, education, and science, the moral guidelines and belief systems of most humans are still grounded in myths and fables. Like children reading fairy tale stories, these religious adherents believe *their* magical wizard exists. They cling to the absurd notion that their magical wizard has chosen them as its favourite children, to the exclusion of others—religion divides, Humanity unites. For these reasons, much of the strife and suffering in the world can be attributed to the divisive nature of religion.

Atavistic: characterized by reversion to something ancient or ancestral;
of a throwback or exhibiting primitivism.

Those who seek comfort in religion have an atavistic worldview—they hold onto the past because the present and future may be unpleasant for them, or they refuse to face the present and future. They refuse to let go and become objective in their worldview.

Religion: When we don't understand how the world works, make it up.

A sore point among the scientific community is that Abrahamic religions still teach their followers that the Universe and Earth were created 6,000 - 10,000 years ago by god, despite overwhelming scientific evidence against the assertion. Science has shown, using radiometric dating, geological stratigraphy, and helioseismic dating, that the Earth is roughly 4.55 billion years old. However, the generally accepted number among Christians is 6,000, and that figure was derived from counting successive generations since Adam and Eve in the Old Testament.

Miseducation is more dangerous than uneducation.

The Six Existential Questions of Life

There is ample, if not conclusive, evidence to support the theory of abiogenesis. In 1953, scientists Stanley Miller and Howard Urey demonstrated the process in which inorganic molecules mutated to complex organic molecules (amino acids, carbohydrates, nucleic acids) roughly 3.5 billion years ago, paving the way for biological life on Earth.

In 1956, using uranium-lead dating and lead-lead dating methods, geochemist Clair Patterson calculated that the Earth was roughly 4.55 billion years old. Even today, Dr. Patterson's estimate is considered accurate within 20-70 million years.

Recently, scientists have re-enacted the creation of our Universe, the Big Bang, in laboratories, particle accelerators, and computer simulations. The data from scientists working independently around the world places our Universe at roughly 13.7 billion years old. We also know from Nagasaki and Hiroshima that when an atom, invisible to the eyes, is split, it releases enough energy to start a chain reaction powerful enough to destroy a city. From these World War II events and our knowledge that mass and energy are interchangeable, we know that something infinitesimally small has the potential to become massively big under the right conditions—this is the awesome power of Nature.

The truth and answers to life are found in science and education, not in religion. Religion hampers our perspective and understanding of the world. Religion is miseducation. A devout religious person loses precious time; first by miseducation, then by re-education.

Let us ponder the primary existential questions of life, without involving religion.

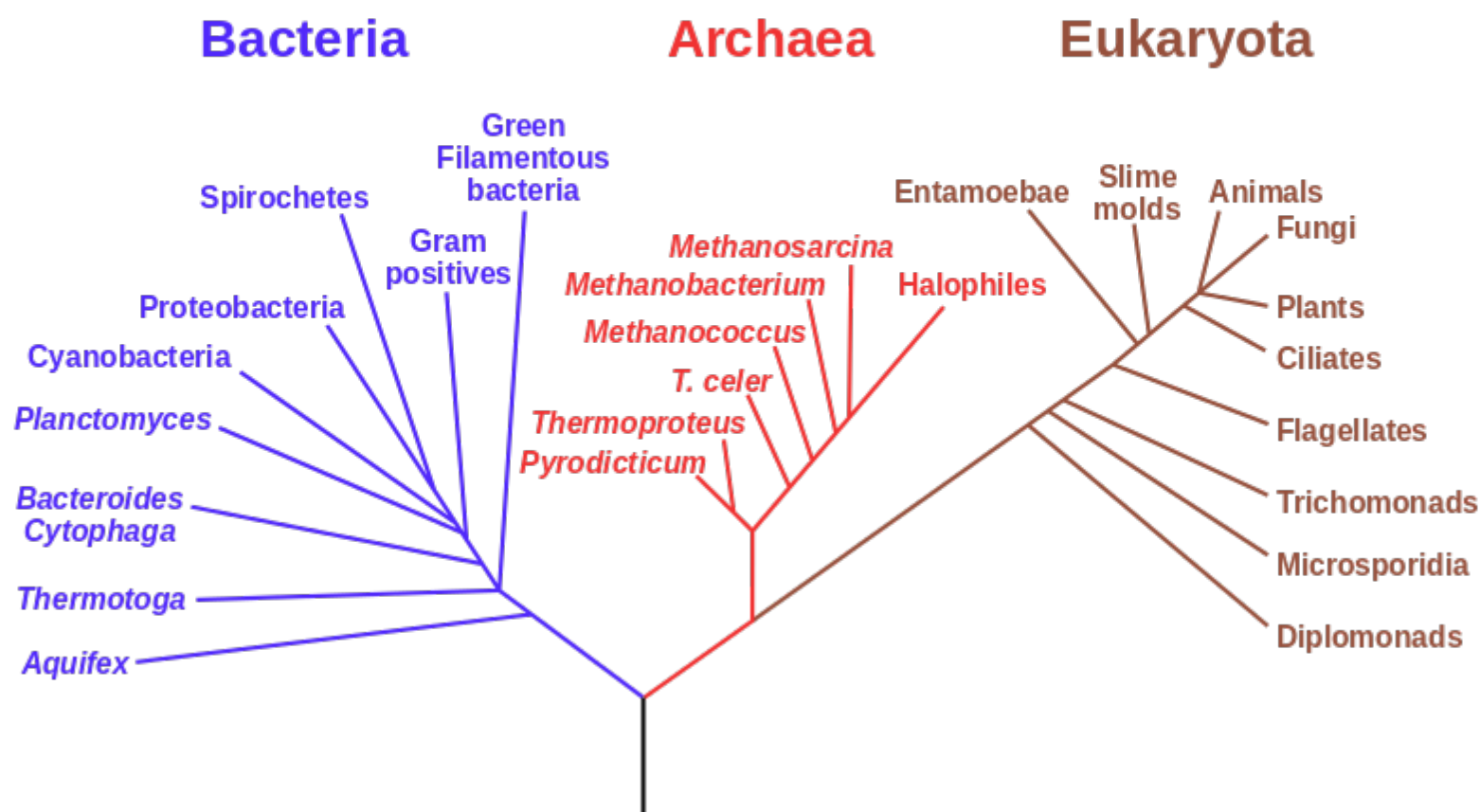
- Where did we come from?
- What is our purpose in life?
- Why do bad things happen to us?
- Is there a god?
- Are we alone in the Universe?
- What happens to us after we die?

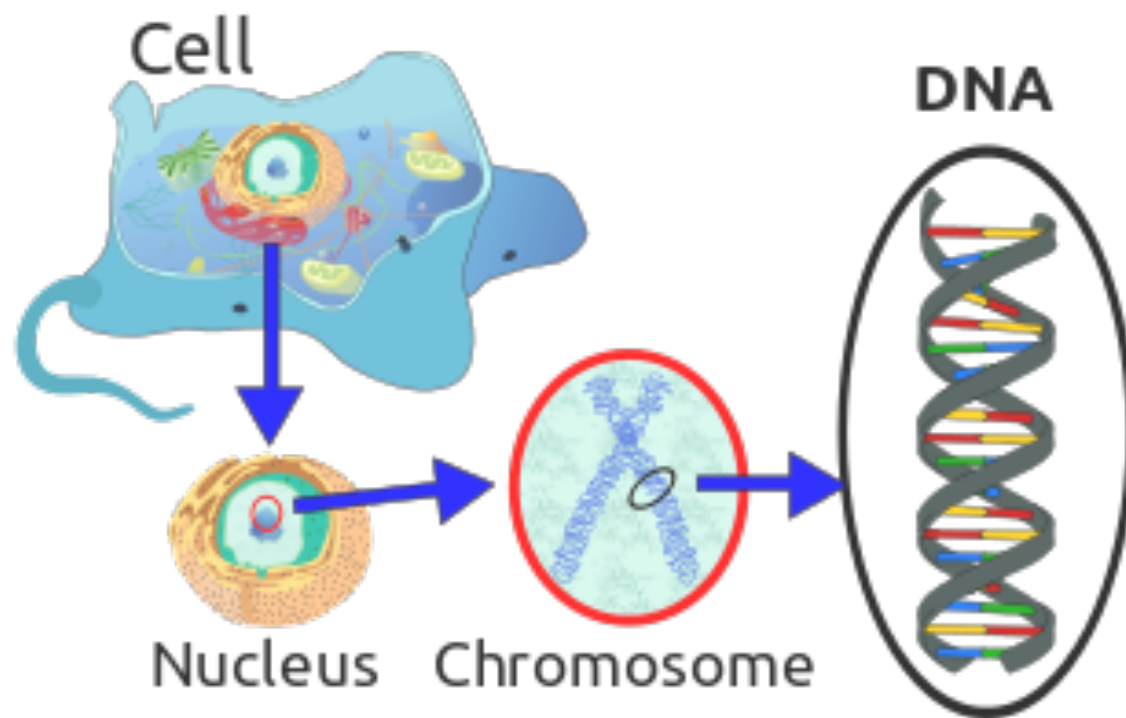
1. Where Did We Come From?

We are all powerful and extraordinary, for we were birthed by the stars. Nature created us through roughly 4.55 billion years of experimentation: from atoms; to chemical elements; to inorganic molecules; to complex-organic molecules; to single-celled organisms; to multicellular organisms of microbes and bacteria; to invertebrates, amphibians, fishes, reptiles, birds, and mammals; then the grand prize of evolution: Homo Sapiens, a thinking and reasoning animal atop the food chain, capable of the greatest vices and virtues.

We are constructed of the same elements as those in the stars: hydrogen, helium, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, silicon, magnesium, neon, iron, and sulfur. The differences between the elements in our body and those in the Sun are the quantity, ratio, arrangement, and complexity—the fusion of the Sun’s lighter elements created heavier elements, then complex molecules in our body. This fact can be verified with electron microscopes, chemical analysis of our cells, spectral analysis, and carbon dating. We share a common ancestor with every living thing on this planet—the spiritualists knew this without requiring scientific evidence when they stated that “everything is connected to everything else.”

Phylogenetic Tree of Life





The average human body is comprised of roughly 100 trillion cells, each evolved over 3.5 billion years to perform a special function in a specific organ. Contrary to popular belief, humans did not evolve from apes—we share a common ancestor with them, just like we share a common ancestry with a butterfly, tree, lion, flower, and every organism on this Earth. Therefore, there is no “missing link” in Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution.

Whether biological life began on Earth in the ashes of underwater volcanoes or bacteria from asteroids (meteors) or on the surface of oceans, it began very small as microbes, then amalgamated and evolved from there to bigger organisms.



2. What Is Our Purpose In Life?

At the universal level, there is a shared baseline for the purpose of life: eat well, sleep well, mingle well, work well, and enjoy life. Every single study on happiness has shown that our connection to our community is one of the most—many times the most—important factor in how happy we are. Our contribution to our community and connection to Nature form the foundation of happiness and purpose.

At the individual level, the purpose of life is different from person to person. That is, the meaning of life varies depending on the person. It has been said that when we find our passion, we find our purpose. However, history has shown that the most purposeful and remembered lives are those who served Humanity—those who lit the path with glowing lights to show others the way. Their spirits are in this book.

The people who have found their purpose in life share some traits: they went through periods of trial and error before finally deciding what they were good at; they had failed before they succeeded; they enjoy what they do; they feel no need to defend what they do; they view what they do as a passion, not as work or a career; they feel what they do makes a difference in the lives of others; and they give back to their community.

If each and every day of our life, we do something productive that fills our waking hours, that is purpose enough. It will leave the world a better place than we found it.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “The purpose of life is not to find yourself, but to *create* yourself.”

The meaning and purpose of life are covered more in depth in Precept 7: Purpose.

3. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Us?

Bad things happen to us for the same reason good things happen to us: the choices we make. The choices we make in life are cumulative and eventually end in consequence. When we made bad decisions, we were either ignorant of the repercussion or had a subconscious desire for the outcome. Summarily, good or bad things happen according to karma—the law of cause and effect. What goes around, comes around.

Of course there are exceptions to this karmic balance; two notable exceptions are natural disasters and children. When children, vulnerable and impressionable, are inflicted with suffering or evil, it is because they are dependent on their parents or caretakers, thus the child's karma is inherited. Or in reverse, parents are punished through the suffering of their children. Just like children who benefit from their parents's skillful deeds, so do children suffer from their parents's unskillful deeds. Our deeds affect us and those we care about. Only when children become emotionally independent and self-sufficient are they responsible for their own karma.

We reap what we sow.

4. Is There A God?

No.

At least not the ones that have been fabricated by humans. Gods have come and gone throughout history, just like the fideist civilizations that worshipped them.

Fideism: The doctrine that religion is the basis of all knowledge; that faith is independent of reason.

Religion has nothing to do with morality and science. We can have morality without religion; we can attain spirituality without priests, rabbis, or imams. We can explain and even predict natural phenomena without the aid of an intelligent designer. We understand how the world works without religious textbooks. We have discovered our origin without faith. We can accurately describe how the cosmos works without a god in it.

If a person does not know right from wrong, then they lack morality. They do not lack religion.

If a person does not understand how the world works, then they lack self-education. They do not lack religion. They have not been enlightened.

If we study history, we know that the Sumerians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, East Indians, Mayans, and every small and large civilization in-between believed in gods at one time or another. They did this for hundreds and even thousands of years. However, gods were created by our ancestors in an attempt to answer existential questions and explain natural phenomena.

- What caused lightening and thunder? God was angry.
- Was a comet a good omen or bad omen? Ask the fortune teller.
- What did a earthquake foretell? The end of the world.
- Why did it rain? Some god in the sky was sad and crying.
- Why did the seasons change? The harvest goddess's daughter was kidnapped and the daughter had to spend six months in hell, this made the goddess sad and

gloomy, therefore winter; when her daughter was returned for six months, the goddess was in a sunny disposition, therefore summer.

- What did the planets, stars, and other celestial bodies represent? Gods and goddesses.

Religion begins where knowledge ends.

Now, let's scrutinize religion from a modern perspective.

- Did Moses really talk to a burning bush on a mountaintop that was supposedly god?
- Did Noah really save civilization and all the animals on his big boat (arc)?
- Was Jesus really the child of a virgin mother; and he walked on water, and arose from the dead?
- Did Muhammad really receive the will of god through an angel?

Unfortunately, there are billions of people who still believe religious nonsense. They have fought, still do fight, and will fight each other to the death for their outdated religious beliefs. Witness the Christian Crusade, the Muslim Jihad, and the Jewish Protocols of the Elders of Zion (if it's to be believed as authentic). Three religions with supposedly one god, and in practice they can't even agree on the basic principles of that one god, hence the perpetual conflicts. The god question is, "Whose god?"

We are the most advanced civilization that Earth has ever harbored. Despite this fact, there are hundreds of millions of people who lack the fundamental principles of basic science, thus the popularity of religion. In a 2014 survey by the U.S. National Science Foundation, 26% of Americans thought the Sun revolved around the Earth; similarly, 34% of Europeans thought the same thing. In addition, 52% of Americans were unaware that humans evolved from earlier species of animals. The fact that the Earth revolves around the Sun was settled by Nicolaus Copernicus in the 16th century, but was suppressed by the Catholic Church. Similarly, the theory of evolution by Charles Darwin is being perverted and suppressed to this very day by devout Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Now, if the U.S. and Europe are considered First World, how much hope of enlightenment is there in Developing and Third World countries that are steeped in religion?

A Brief History of Religion

A religion becomes dominant when it is adopted by the elite and ruler. It's a top-down adoption and expansion pattern, and those who blindly follow are considered "sheep" by the enlightened. This herd mentality, blind faith, follow-the-leader, peer pressure, mob rule, or by any other name is true of the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths.

First, examine Christianity, which was an illegal and persecuted cult for centuries throughout the Roman Empire. However, this cult became fashionable when Roman Emperor Constantine I adopted it as his official religion and instituted it in the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. From there, Christianity "borrowed" most ideas for Jesus Christ's divinity from the Pagans and Egyptians: birth from a virgin mother, rise after three days of death, Christmas for Winter Solstice, the son of god, the bringer of light, and so on. The Christian faith is a mashup of other faiths. Not surprisingly, there are now scholars who doubt if Jesus Christ had existed at all. If these scholars are right, then Jesus Christ was a fictional character. If Jesus did exist, he might have been a spiritual teacher or philosopher who was lionized and exaggerated by the Creed of Nicaea and subsequent ecumenical councils of Nicaea.

We know from history that Jesus Christ's godly features were fabricated to make him more appealing to the commoners. In truth, Jesus Christ was a product manufactured by the apostles of Nicaea, the predecessors to the priests of the Roman Catholic Church. As we note from history, Jesus was not considered divine until three hundred years after his supposed birth, when it was convenient for the ruling authority. Since the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, and largely thanks to the largesse of Emperor Constantine I, Christianity had spread with the Roman Empire. However, the Roman Empire has long since collapsed, but the Holy Roman Empire is alive and well in the Roman Catholic Church—the Pope has replaced the Emperor. The largest landowner in the world today is the Roman Catholic Church (the Vatican). There is much more to Christianity than religion.

Second, examine Judaism. It is believed that most Jews today are not descendants of the original Semites of the Middle East, but they are converts of European and Turkic heritage (Khazarian Empire theory, 618 - 1048 AD). Nowadays, to label someone a Jew is ambiguous. The Jews could be identified as a race who shared a common ancestry in Judea (Palestine), as the Romans called it. Or the Jews could be identified as a religious group who have adopted Judaism. Since 250 AD, the Jews have been ex-

pelled about 109 times from territories and nations in which they had inhabited—the two most prominent are the Spanish Inquisition (1492) and the World War II Holocaust (1939 - 1944). The Jews have also been victims of numerous edicts and pogroms. Whether they were considered subversive, as scapegoats, or just generally disliked for their belief that they were the Chosen People of God, the Jews as a group have suffered much throughout history. As religious hogwash goes, if god loved the Jews so much that he made them the Chosen People, he would have made more of them, like the 1.1 billion East Indians or the 1.3 billion Chinese. And god certainly would not have created the Israelites to be dependent on the generosity of American taxpayers.

Third, examine Islam, which is the youngest of the three major religions today. Islam came about when Muhammad (Abū al-Qāsim Muḥammad ibn ‘Abd Allāh ibn ‘Abd al-Muṭṭalib ibn Hāshim, 570 - 632 AD) had a series of “divine” revelations. He claimed that the angel Gabriel had revealed to him the words of god. These revelations were recorded in what is now the Muslim holy book, the Quran. When the sheiks and kings of many Arabian tribes adopted Muhammad’s teachings, their followers became Muslim adherents. The word “Muslim” means he who submits to god, or the will of god. In whole, the Muslim faith is based entirely on the account of one man, a businessman no less, who claimed an angel had spoken to him, and that this angel had revealed to him the will of god. If anyone made that claim today they would be locked up in an psychiatric ward and the key thrown away.

Destructive Muslim concepts such as infidels, Sharia Laws, fatwa, and jihad are familiar to non-Muslims. The Quran appears to be a book of fiction written by a man similar to the one who founded Scientology, Ron L. Hubbard. Humanity could face another Dark Age if Islam is spread unchecked. Islam is a backward religion, nothing in it agrees with reason, science, and especially basic human rights.

The three major religions have their root in the Middle East. Today, the region of the Earth that is constantly at war is the Middle East—people with the same ancestry killing each other because they belong to different sects or branches of the same religion. That is Karma on display. If left unrestrained, these religious numbskulls will continue to kill each other to establish nations governed by religious laws (read: theocratic societies, outdated, backward, irrational, oppressive, tyrannical).

Religion was, and is still, used to control people, not enlighten them; religion is the dumbing down of Humanity's potential, because religion is arbitrary and subjective. It is science that enlightens and reason that establishes the principles of morality. If we are to seriously enquire about god, we need to ask questions that we have no answers to.

- Who created god?
- Does god exist in the form of mass, energy, or both?
- Why has the voice or image of god never been heard or seen by a group of people? It's always unverifiable stories from a lone nut in the wilderness.

We've mapped the Earth, the solar system, part of the Milky Way galaxy, and have begun creating a 3-dimensional map of the Universe—where does god reside? If the answer is “everywhere”, that is Nature. Nature exists everywhere.

Religious fanatics like to challenge the agnostic or atheist with, “If you don't believe in god, then what do you believe in?”

A good place to start would be to believe in universal knowledge, collective wisdom, and spirituality. Humanity. Nature. Science.

If you need to believe in someone, believe in yourself.

5. Are We Alone In The Universe?

Most unlikely. There are an estimated 100-400 billion stars in a galaxy and 100 billion galaxies in the Universe, and these estimates keep increasing as new discoveries are made. Mathematically, according to the theory of chaos and the Frank Drake equation, there are millions of lifeforms in the Universe and probably thousands with our intellectual capacity, and some even exceeding our intellectual capacity. The primordial soup of elements that kickstarted life on Earth is a mathematical reality in millions of other solar systems in the cosmos.

Abiogenesis: The original evolution of life or living organisms from inorganic or inanimate substances.

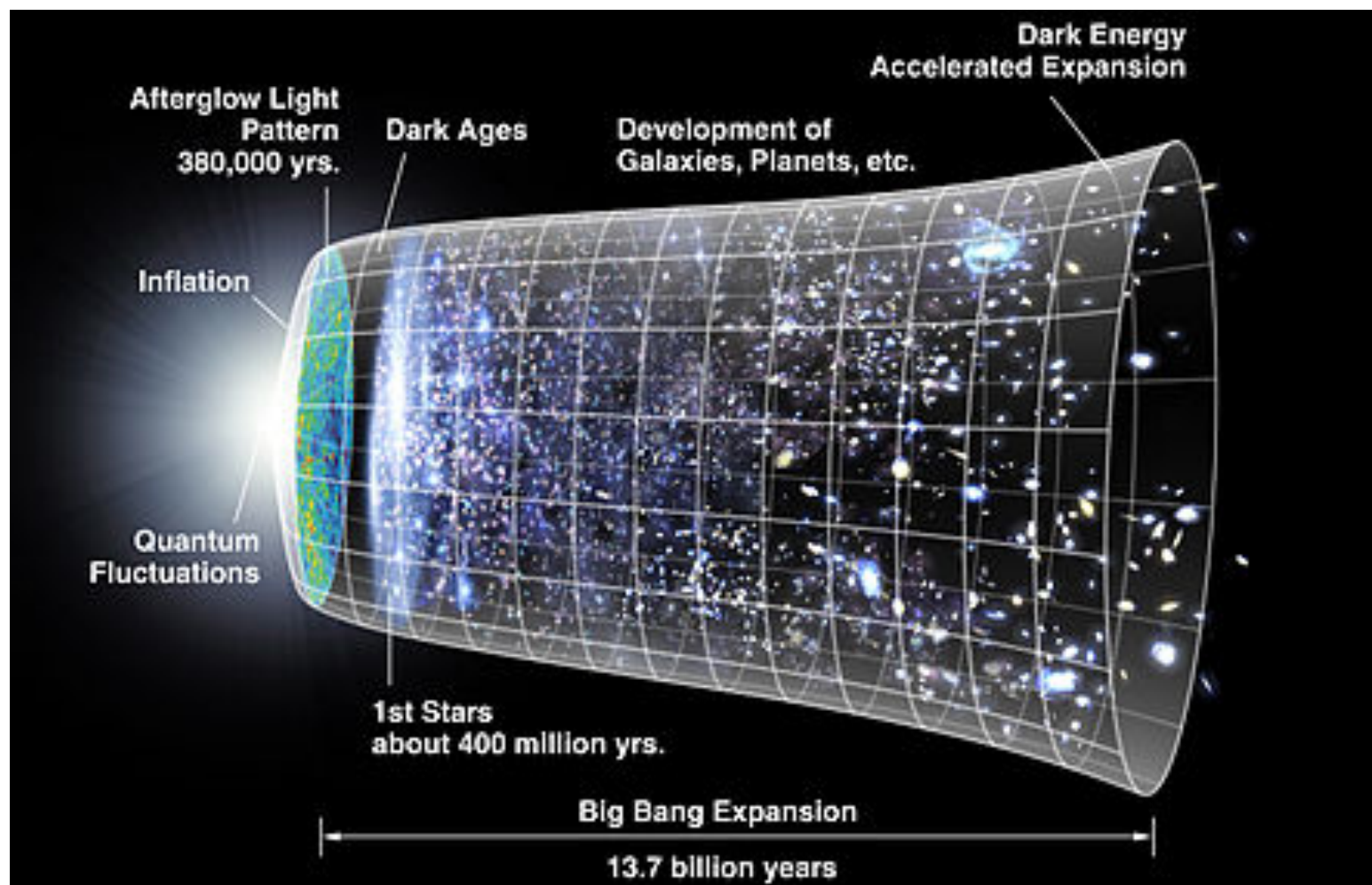
The process of abiogenesis that occurred on Earth, based on mathematical probabilities alone, is repeatable on other planets: atoms forged into light elements, light elements fused into heavier elements in the Sun, then a primordial soup of elements that meshed into inorganic molecules, then electrified and energized to form organic molecules, then prokaryote cells (cells with no nucleus), then eukaryote cells (cells with a nucleus capable of passing on genetic information), to multicellular organisms, to microbes and bacteria, then various species of amphibians, birds, arthropods, reptiles, and mammals. We are the product of Nature's experiment and patience, and Her laws permeate the cosmos. As Michael Faraday put it, "Nothing is too wonderful to be true, if it be consistent with the laws of nature."

Furthermore, according to String Theory, our Universe may only be one of many universes in a multiverse.

Our Universe is roughly 13.7 billion years old. The Earth is approximately 4.55 billion years old and not 6,000 - 10,000 according to Christian (Bible), Jewish (Torah), and Muslim (Quran) textbooks. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are Abrahamic religions—they share the same root and believe that life originated in a corner of the Middle East 6,000 - 10,000 years ago through Creationism. Furthermore, peace is supposed to be a central tenet of these religions but they have been locked in perpetual conflict with no end in sight.

Our spiral Milky Way Galaxy (top) and Universe (bottom).

We are infinitesimally small in the cosmos. We do not need religion to divide us even smaller.



6.What Happens To Us After We Die?

There is an afterlife. We know this from observation. However, there is no evidence supporting the notion of heaven and hell as places of reward and damnation in the afterlife. Our afterlife resides in the memories of those we leave behind. Think of all the great people throughout history who are still with us in spirit because they touched our lives—their souls are their Afterlife. Whether our soul becomes famous or infamous, praised or condemned, admired or damned in the afterlife depends on whether we performed good or evil while we lived.

The good that we do will be remembered after we die—the greater the deeds, the longer the afterlife. Our essence lives on through loved ones and service to Humanity.

Throughout this book, we've met the afterlives of many great people who have enlightened us and shown us the path.

The cycle of life as designed by Nature is: birth and death, birth and death, ad infinitum...When something dies, its energy gives birth to another entity in the cosmos.

Life With Nature In The Cosmos

In summary, the 6 Big Questions of life are:

- Where did we come from?
- What is our purpose in life?
- Why do bad things happen to us?
- Is there a god?
- Are we alone in the Universe?
- What happens to us after we die?

If the first question can be answered with empirical evidence and by the process of elimination, then the answer to, “Is there a god?”, should be self-evident.

The God Dilemma

We are infinitesimally small in an unimaginably massive cosmos. If there were a god, it would have to be bigger than unimaginably big to have created the Universe and everything in it. If there were a god in this staggering immensity of existence, who is arrogant or delusional enough to think that god would care for her or him? This god, or intelligent designer, would have to be incomprehensibly powerful and its domain so immeasurably vast, that it would not care what we thought of it either way.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all the brave women and men throughout history who fought against oppression, injustice, and tyranny. They stood up against oppression, injustice, and tyranny by the sword and of the mind. It is because of their courageous souls that many of us are able to enjoy the liberties and amenities of modern life. They are forever with us in spirit because they advanced knowledge and protected innate human rights for every person. They did what was beneficial for Humanity and were awarded with an everlasting Afterlife—their voices echo in this book.

We must have the courage and resolve to carry on their work. In doing so, we can only hope that our light will shine a fraction as bright as theirs in our Afterlife.

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